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Weekly Newsmagazine

March 20, 2000 www.macleans.ca

POLITICS
Can Stockwell Day
Win the Right?

ECONOMY
The Booming
Job Market

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David Bowie and
Sarah McLachlan

From the Editor

Winds of change from the West

The winds of change are blowing across the Canadian political landscape—and, unlike election night, they are moving from west to east. First came Ralph Klein's bill to allow surgery in private clinics. Last week, it was Alberta Treasurer Stedwell Day declaring his candidacy to replace Reform and Preston Manning (page 18). If they succeed, the face of Canada could be changed forever.

Say this about Stedwell Day: not since Pierre Trudeau dove into a swimming pool during an election campaign has an aspiring federal leader looked so good with his shirt off. In many ways, Day is the Canadian right's last new hope for a breakthrough. At 49, he is youthful, athletic, poised for the TV era, yet with seven years of cabinet experience and plausible rhetoric. He will give Manning's head run for the leadership of the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance. And if he becomes leader of the Opposition, pressure will mount on the Liberals to make a change.

The sweet sign of Day's promise is that he is already being attacked for his stands against homosexual rights and

state-supported abortion. The gossip-politico Web site, bouquet.com, even has added links to inflammatory letters Day's father wrote to an Alberta anti-gay organization. Day Jr.'s critics believe his religious fundamentalism may



Day doing a karate kick looking good

work against hopes that he can expand the party's base east of Manitoba. Yet he has growing support in Manning's very own Ottawa caucus from social progressives and conservatives.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein also is an important backdrop. At home, Klein is as determined as Day to alter the political landscape. There seems little doubt that

his health bill complies with the conditions of the Canada Health Act (and has to be universal, comprehensive, portable and publicly administered). What critics in the health establishment are most concerned about is the potential that Klein's for-profit clinics will lure top professionals out of the public arena, causing an upstream-downstream system. Alberta will have to decide on that. If they embrace a greater role for the private sector in health care, the system could spread to other provinces where the system is in trouble. If Day ends up in Ottawa, a powerful new alliance with conservatives in Alberta—and Ontario—could be born. It could even rival the one the federal Liberals now have with Quebec. That, at least, is the dream of Canada's political right. That and having customers wait up late for the results in the next election.

Robert Lewis

robertl@robertl.com or to comment on From the Editor



Newsroom Notes

Net sounds

The recording industry is facing a huge challenge from the Internet. So it was natural that National Technology Correspondent Chris Wood, who is spearheading *Macworld*'s expanded tech coverage, would turn to the Net to research this week's cover story (page 42). From his Vancouver base, Wood sampled digital music online and looked on a daylong tourney on a music Web-

cast from Harvard Law School. "Technology may change how we listen, but not why we listen," he says. "The genres is in the sound, not the software."

In Toronto, Associate Editor Dunlop Haveland reported an exclusive ses-



Haveland (left), Woodward, Wood

sy on how counterfeit music—and a lot of other fake stuff—ends through Canada Customs unharmed, due to a dispute between customs and the RCMP. The package was even sent by Assistant Managing Editor Betton Woodward.

Every few weeks, *Macworld* will run a special feature called History—compelling stories of little-known or forgotten events and people from Canada's past. This week, Halifax Bureau Chief John DeMonte visits Deseronto Island in Nova Scotia (page 22).

Our race car Here's one appointment on the Accord EX you didn't see coming.

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Hockey violence

Kudos to McSorley for highlighting the silent epidemic of neurological injuries ("Blood sport," Cover, March 6). As a neurosurgeon, I am acutely aware of the life-changing effects of brain and spinal-cord injuries occurring in our youth. In 1997, the last year for which data are available for Ontario, 200 people aged less than 34 sustained a spinal-cord injury, 4,157 youth sustained a



McSorley slams Brashear's noggin

head injury severe enough to warrant admission to hospital. Good data for concussions are not available, but this number is undoubtedly at least 10 times higher. The cost for our country can run into the billions of dollars annually, not to say anything of the anguish, and lives ruined and forever changed. The problem with saying that violence is

OK in the National Hockey League is with the millions of children idolizing their NHL heroes and worshipping the game. They grow up saying that this is how the game is supposed to be played and incorporate that not only into their sport, but also more broadly into their psyche. Organized hockey at all levels has a golden opportunity to lead a change in society right now by banning violence in the game. History will tell if it takes up that challenge.

Dr. Michael D. Coleman, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto

You could not have been more correct in saying that the "NHL is left with a contradiction" by suspending players for violence with the stick, and barely dishing their wares for violence with their fists. While Murry McSorley's actions were appalling, the league's first-term of the incident was not much better. By suspending McSorley and ruling the case normally closed, the NHL is turning a blind eye to a much larger problem of which this incident is only a symptom. The NHL can no longer afford to rely on player self-control, to ensure that only the "acceptable" violence of bare-knuckled fighting occurs.

Ross McCullough, Mississauga, Ont.

We had them boys in 39 months. The eldest is now 9. Living on the Prairies, we got teased a lot about how much time we would be spending at the local rink in the years to come. Having seen the injuries, the politics and antisocial behaviour this sport produces, we enrolled the boys in a martial arts class instead. A good school teaches self-defence and self-advocacy, producing self-confidence and self-esteem. The idea in martial arts is not overaggression—the point of the boxing described at your article: "The left of having"—

The drug problem

I agree with Allan Fotheringham when he says about the problem of drugs, "Where there is a market, there will always be a producer," and hope that, someday, our leaders will address the drug problem where it really costs—at home ("Blame us, not them," March 6). The availability of drugs is no secret and it would be common sense to legislate their purchase and use in the same way as alcohol, with zero tolerance. The huge cost to society should be discussed at the user rather than the distributor. Thank you, Dr. Foth, for putting the facts out where they belong.

Robert Webster, Victoria

but a sense of achievement and fulfillment. British sports psychologist Eric Dunning states in your article that "men can't go out of their caves and bring a woman home by the hair anymore" and "these rituals let some men still express that extreme form of masculinity." The boxing techniques mentioned usually involved some degrading games involving the genitals. This does not lead me to believe these men are in any way secure in their masculinity. I believe an extreme form of masculinity is found in men who take financial and emotional responsibility for their families, who stand and be counted and defend those who can't. Bullies don't last long in the world of martial arts when they fail there, they go play hockey.

Brad Lawrence, Toronto, Ont.

The subheading accompanying your "Blood sport" essay says "When Murry McSorley whacked Donald Brashear, he dealt a devastating blow to hockey." I doubt it. My guess is that the incident will soon be forgotten, and the game will continue to be played as you've just described it in the movie *Slap Shot*: "a violent fringe sport where closely aligned with wrestling and roller derby than with baseball, basketball and football."

Keith Almstrong, Red Deer, Alta.

Frankly, I'm tired of your hockey biasing. You choose to focus on the most negative incidents and blow them

THEY'VE GOT TOMMY LEE
AND SAMUEL L. JACKSON

BY WILLIAM FREEDMAN

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oil tanker with this precious, wound resource at a material threat to the environment compared with their current barges. We could give away this life-sustaining fluid to Third World countries, or sell it to California, or both. If we insist on pouring our effluence into the ocean, then one day a thirsty world will come and take it from us, by force if necessary, and we shall have no one to blame but ourselves.

Alan Clowes, Salspring Island, B.C.

Negotiation or war?

Your story about strife in Kosovo ("Life amidst strife," Overton, March 6) only reminds us of Canada's error in taking sides in the alleged NATO bombing of Kosovo under the pretence of humanitarianism. Even a former Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia warned

its allyship as Canada and most of the media supported the U.S. (NATO) propaganda. We mocked the rule of law NATO's unlawful aggression encourages Russia to maintain its nuclear capability, and did not even remove Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. We could have gained as much or even more through negotiation or arbitration.

Russ Smith, Montreal

Global warming

Inevitably, someone wants us to see the idea of global warming ("Warming alternative," The Mail, March 6). Yes, it could be a natural cycle. So, let's crank up those Kenosha lefts produce even bigger gas-guzzling, carbon-spewing monster cars to drive from suburban three-car-garage monster houses, one by one, into that urban jungle. Let's expand the roads. Rages about public transportation, bulldoze the trees and pave over the forestland. Let's encourage even more production and con-

sumption of mostly useless goods. Yes, it's all good for the economy, just don't forget to leave your tiny little heads buried in the sand.

Tanya Antevon, Midhurst, Ont.

'Quit riffing on us'

I was extremely shocked by "Kid speaks how to break the code" (Overton, March 6). It was depressing to anyone under 20. As a teenager, I felt this was completely talking sense. None of my friends or I have ever said "molesters," "luch" or "my bad." To say we all do is to say everyone who grew up in the '60s was a hippie. I can't help thinking the baby boomers were upset when the Establishment at that time named them hippies and yuppies, and generalized that they all said "we dig you dudes, man, cut you're really groovy." So why are you doing it to the new generation? Quit riffing on us, cuz that is so, like, you know, WHACK!

Curtis Ward, Saskatoon

'Gouging' gas prices

I heartily applauded the independent traders for daring to take on the government and the oil industry ("Rolling to a stop," Business Notes, March 6). The recent increases in fuel prices are nothing more than gouging the public. The party line of the oil industry is that the high prices are the result of OPEC production restrictions, yet we continue to be one of the largest exporters of crude oil to the United States. How is it that we have so much oil that we can export it, but continue to have to pay OPEC prices? To say that it is OPEC's fault is to have a scapegoat to hide behind. If the oil industry is so hard done by, then maybe it can explain the record profits posted last year. While they sit at it, maybe they can explain why the cost of gasoline is higher than it was during the Gulf War when crude was at a similar price. And with regard to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's suggestion that the consumers pass on the costs, well, it is definitely the first time that I have heard a prime minister suggest that someone create inflation.

Keith MacQueen, Almonte, Ont.

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PASSAGES

Charged: Boston Bruins defenseman Marty McSorley, 37, faces assault with a weapon charges in British Columbia in the wake of his stick attack on Vancouver Canucks forward.

Donald Brashear on Feb. 21. If sentenced, McSorley faces a maximum jail sentence of 18 months. He has been suspended by the NHL for a minimum of 23 games.

Resolved: Reporter Tony Milewski settled differences with CBC-TV over his coverage of the APEC-pepper-spray story in Vancouver in 1997. Milewski had been suspended twice: the first time after complaints by the Prime Minister's Office that his coverage was biased, and the second after Milewski's public criticism of the decision to suspend him. He will receive full compensation for lost pay and be allowed to return to coverage of the story, although the suspensions remain on record in his file.

Die: Quebec labour leader Marcel Pilon, 74, was president of the powerful Confederation of National Trade Unions from 1965 to 1976. He was one of three labour leaders who were represented by former premier Robert Bourassa during a 1972 public-servant strike. He died in Montreal of complications after an operation.

Demoted: Olympic champion sprinter Donovan Bailey, 32, has been downgraded from A- to B-grade status under Sport Canada's Athlete Assurance plan—meaning his two-free monthly support payments fell to \$685 from \$810. (Bailey has been giving the money to teammates.) A winner of the 100-m dash at the 1996 Atlanta Games and anchor of Canada's gold-medal relay team, he has been labelled by a retired Athlete Canada official playing basketball in 1998.



Die: Canadian stage and screen actor John Colicos, 71, played parts ranging from Winston Churchill to Shakespeare's King Lear to a scene-stealing role with Jack Nicholson and Jessica Lange in the 1981 movie *The Piano*. After *King Lear*, he became, at 23, the youngest actor to play King Lear in London's Old Vic. He was a regular at the Stratford Festival and had parts in many Hollywood movies. He died in Toronto of suspected heart failure.

Die: Joe Mathias, chief of the Squamish band, was a key activist for land-claims negotiations in British Columbia. Chief for more than 30 years, he made the land-claims fight his life's work. Believed to be 56, he died suddenly in hospital after a brief illness.

Die: Artyom Borisov, believed to be 38, was one of Russia's top-murdering journalists. A publisher of the magazine *Seventeen* (Top Secret), he was vilified by many government figures for his exposés of corruption at the highest levels. He also exposed military abuses in the 1980s when the former Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan. Borisov, who spoke fluent English, was a secretive, isolated contributor. He died in a Moscow plane crash that killed eight others.

Die: Eight-time national chess champion Abe Yanofsky, 74, of Winnipeg, was Canada's first grand master. Devoted and disciplined, Yanofsky once lost 15 lb playing in a tournament. A longtime Winnipeg city councillor, he was awarded the Order of Canada in 1972. He died of cancer.

Appointed: Former prime minister Brian Mulroney, 61, is joining the powerful Tseu-based law firm Hicks Muse Tseu & Fox as senior counsel and chairman of its Latin American and European strategy boards. Although Mulroney will have an office in the firm's New York City branch, he will still live in Montreal and continue his other work, including his position as senior counsel with the Canadian firm Ogilvy Renault.

Tips for a Better Healthstyle

From Hal Johnson & Joanne McLeod's best-selling book, *Body Break—Our Guide to Healthier Living*

Healthy Eating Tips

1 Whether you are a vegetarian or not, you should include more such as beans, chick-peas, etc., in your diet 2 to 3 times a week. They are packed with good things such as B-vitamins, calcium, iron and fibre.

2 The advice of many nutrition experts is to eat fish 2 to 3 times a week. Eating fish has been associated with a reduced risk of heart attacks. And yes, canned tuna and salmon packed in water count as servings.

3 Main sources of vitamin E are high in fat (i.e., peanuts, sunflower seeds, almonds and vegetable oil). Include these in your diet but do so in moderation.

4 In the cooking process, heat and water destroy some of the vitamin C and beta-carotene in eat at least some of your produce raw. To minimize nutrient losses:

• steam or microwave cooking are the best methods



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What Martin *doesn't* know

When it comes to an increasingly wired world, it's hard to think of two guys more technologically impaired than Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin. Some years ago, the Prime Minister took part in his first online chat room session. When he sat in front of a computer, Chrétien appeared baffled by the mouse, and his inimitable pranks made clear that mousing around is still his kingly hobby job. David Martin, his wife, Sheila, has remarked that her husband is baffled by the steps required to set an alarm clock, and he's acknowledged by friends as a wizenoff at anything more complex.

On the one hand, it's amusing, and perhaps endearing, that Canada's two most powerful politicians are so inept at high-tech and even low-tech. It's also disconcerting, compared to the New Economy—meaning information and software-related technologies—are driving economic growth and everything that goes with it. Stock markets focusing on technology, such as the Nasdaq, consistently outperform more traditional counterparts, and the frequency of tech stocks has saved the economy from the slump that it would once have suffered amidst sharply rising manufacturing costs for pulp and petroleum-based raw materials. A report by The Boston Consulting Group estimates that in Canada, the Internet economy could generate \$155 billion in annual revenues and create 180,000 jobs by 2005—if the country moves "aggressively." Last week, *Business Canada* announced plans to mount its first comprehensive analysis of the Internet's impact on the economy.

It used to be a badge of honour for business executives to make sure lack of software expertise, computers went things underfoot. But the reverse has become true: CEOs can no longer shirk themselves access to such an essential information tool. Witness all the laptops that hang upon on the business class section of airplanes: the rumormongers' planes are now almost obsolete. Every small-business owner knows how to run a spreadsheet; an e-mail address on a business card is pretty much as de rigueur as a telephone number.

But politicians remain holdouts other than Industry Minister John Manley, a regular online sufferer. It's hard to think of anyone in the federal cabinet who could talk on a tech-guy for more than a minute without a mediator. People around government say Martin leads a sort of unofficial opposition within the cabinet—pushing, so far without much success, for dramatic, accelerated action to serve impediments to growth of the New Economy. The problem is evident in the wake of the federal budget, Martin, who wrote the budget, and the Prime Minister, who approved it, worked to please a wide range of different interests. In the short term, the lack of sustained criticism suggests they succeeded. But the long-

term is more uncertain: you can argue neither man understands what the future isn't what it used to be.

Consider the government's recent fondness for using five-year models for planning and projection. To get an idea of what's dangerous about that, look at Martin's landmark 1995 budget. In it, you'll find lots of talk and action about plenty of things—but scant mention of the Internet. That's because it was in its infancy then, and few people foresaw the enormous impact it would have. Similarly, how many people today understand, say, the difference that wireless technology will make to life five years from now—or even next?

People in the information technology sector refer to two ways of telling time: clock's everyday time, then the accident-and-odd-time by which they operate. It's like the notion that every person-year equals seven years of a dog's life: tech time moves much more swiftly, and accordingly. Several weeks can mean the difference between success and failure in bringing an innovation to market. Companies are conceived, formed and put up for sale via IPOs within months that previous can take years to plan in Toronto and Montreal in New York City while the project moves up Seattle—before being swallowed up in a merger directed from London. American venture capitalists tell prospective clients to be of good cheer because "there's a lot more money than this slow." Here, the money is true. So it's hard to imagine affected people on either side of the border being too excited by the fact the budget will take five years to reduce Canada's corporate tax rate to about the present rate of the United States.

Perhaps the real concern is that Martin, for once, lacks the wisdom to acknowledge what he doesn't know. There's no real map for what has passed. Many Internet companies are overvalued, analysts say, because it's impossible to project future performance, since that is quantified, the valuation drops, because suddenly stock price is based on more than just the day dream. Internet analyst Henry Blodget projects that three-quarters of Internet companies will fail within five years. A lot of sensible people describe the present economic shift as the most profound since the Industrial Revolution. If so, predicting the way the world will look in five years is facile, and self-dubbing the future and the way it looks now.

It's reminiscent of a useful essay told by a retired Canadian ambassador who recalled his first day without a job. He wore the same shoes, ate his usual breakfast, dressed as usual, then went to his car—and sat in the back seat for several minutes, until he realized his chauffeur was coming to drive him. Otherwise, the world had changed, and that made the difference between moving ahead—or standing still. Here, Mr. Martin, does not always make sense.



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Barbara Amiel

On being 'right wing'

I've been a columnist at *Maclean's* for 22 years. For most of this time, I've been described as a "right-winger" and sometimes an "extreme." Good friends wonder why I find it necessary to support an ex-dictator such as Augusto Pinochet or a dubious politician like Jorg Haider. Upon closer wonder here on earth I can be, as they see it, an "apologist" for neo Nazis and racist chambers. I'd like to explain. I will defend anyone of any political persuasion, even a Nazi sympathizer, if they are being judicially lynched. Had I been writing in the McCarthy era, I would certainly have been defining Communism and most especially opposing the judicial lynching of Paul Robeson, the great Negro singer who had his U.S. passport withdrawn in 1950 for refusing to sign an affidavit that he was not a member of the Communist Party. I wrote against the jails of the Greek colonels and South African apartheid, but my voice went (dreadfully) unheeded because virtually everyone in the journalism community was on the same wavelength. The reason I am called right wing today is only because the spirit of our times is left wing and most of our class (including the media) are imbued with disapproval. They rarely see extremes on the left. But find where most contemporary McCarthyism is.

I will most especially defend someone when I believe the substance of the accusation—as well as the process—is the victim or unjustified. When writing about Jorg Haider, for example, the first thing one has to do is distinguish between what he actually stands for and what his opponents claim he stands for. Whether one agrees with Haider or not, the mere fact that the *Seinfeld* International labels him a neo-Nazi or Nazi sympathizer does not make him one. Ideological groups from left to right often categorize opponents falsely. Some people I have defended may simply be the victim of false allegations. In 1986, John Demjanjuk, a U.S. citizen from Ukraine, was accused of being the infamous Treblinka concentration camp guard called "Ivan the Terrible." He was deported by the United States to Israel after disgracefully flawed judicial proceedings in America. The case of Israel acquired him.

The very people who cried for his blood, instead of being ashamed of their lack of procedural safeguards, were upset. Perhaps he wasn't from the Terrible, they said, but he had to go into the United States and so he must have done something bad. Such people have no sense of life under tyranny and how most ordinary people merely joined the Young Pioneers (Communist youth) or the local Nazi youth club in order to survive or stay out of trouble. They go along with the spirit of the times—such as most Canadians did when they transported dozens of Japanese descent to internment camps and stole their goods and homes. I may also tie to the de-

ference of a person who is disproportionately attacked or, as in the case of Pinochet, the attack is used to bolster an institution far more dangerous than the person under attack—such as the new International Criminal Tribunal. These tribunals create unelected, supranational bodies deciding arbitrarily who is a war criminal and who is not according to their own arcane political agenda.

There is an intriguing scandal now brewing about the origin of the Rwanda massacre. Evidence seems to indicate that Justice Louise Arbour in her role as chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda denied not to pursue a credible report that the Hutu massacres started when Hutu extremists drove the plane carrying the Hutu president. The United Nations and its agencies had all decided that the Hutus were the villains and prosecuting Hutus would have upset their sponsors. Tribal and ethnic wars, like Rwanda and Yugoslavia, do not yield to black-and-white interpretations. The legal notion of jurisdiction takes priority this into account by saying that in order for courts to become competent to judge a case, it must be created where these complexities are within to grasp.

For me, the most sensitive reason to take on unpopular causes is hypocrisy. I abhor selective justice, selective outrage and selective prosecution. Whether Haider may have said is doing justice next to our own prime minister Trudeau declaring "Viva Castro" as he claimed that mass wrongful French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin saying how proud he was to have Communism in his government—the ban on a system that killed 70 million people. These are the slightest attempts made to bring left-wing crimes to rest. We give no attention for the former Soviet leaders and mass accusations for the present Chinese ones and more Maoist-driven African systems in regions with outrageous acts of violence. We are aware our outrage for a few minutes by Haider that suggest the Wilkes 55 had some courageous and decent men.

If you deny the Nazi Holocaust, you can go to jail in many countries. Denying the communist holocaust will get you a chair at any Western university and tenure at the University of Toronto. Can you imagine a chair in Nazism or a course to study *Myth of the Twentieth Century* by Alfred Rosenberg, Hitler's favorite philosopher? The double standard is loathsome.

There are some of the reasons why I write. I know that millions of men and women fought Hitler because they believed deeply in a world where all people would be treated with fairness, where justice would wear a blindfold and take no notice of colour, race, religion, creed or class. We was that war. But we have never quite won the peace.

Morsons, he may garner considerable support from his fellow Ontarians. But Long adds that Day—who in the past 18 months has made a series of appearances at both Reform and Tory functions in Ontario—will also get a sympathetic hearing. "He's a very impressive, very dynamic fellow," says Long. "He also has a track record of success in Alberta that I think is going to be fairly quite interesting to conservatives across the country."

One of the things the Harris Tories will monitor closely is how Day deals, in the course of a leadership race, with his deeply ingrained moral conservatism—including opposition to abortion and gay rights. Those are positions that the Harris Tories have tended to steer away from as unconsciously driven. But an experience shows, Alberta's conservative minister is not someone who can stay silent on such matters for long.

Steedwell Day has pedaled a lot into his 69 years. Born in Barrie, Ont., the second oldest of six children, he moved often because of his father's job as a vice-president with the Zellerbach chain. Day spent parts of his childhood in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec—where he learned to speak fluent French. After the family moved to British Columbia in 1968, he enrolled at the University of Victoria, but dropped out before earning a degree. Over the next several years, he worked at a variety of jobs, including lumberjack in the B.C. interior, off-road wanderer in Nevada, N.W.T., and drapery salesman in Edmonton.

In the late 1970s, Day moved his family—he and wife Wilene were married in 1971 and have three grown sons—to Toronto, where he began working as a youth minister at the First Baptist Church. He earned provincial politics in 1986, winning a Tory in the nearby riding of Red Deer North.

Day quickly rose through the ranks, serving as party whip, house leader, minister of labour, social services minister and, finally, provincial treasurer.

Along the way, Day showed a knack for sinking up controversy. In 1993, he supported an unsuccessful resolution calling on the Alberta government to stop paying for abortion under the provincial health-care plan. Three years later, he was embroiled in another losing battle, trying to convince his caucus colleagues to invoke the notwithstanding clause of the federal charter of rights to overturn a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that homosexual acts be protected under Alberta's human-rights law.

Last April, Day sparked yet another uproar by writing a letter to a newspaper criticising Red Deer lawyer and school trustee Laura Goddard for defecating a doghouse in a child pornography scandal. Goddard later slapped Day with



Manning, on one grip on Reform's politics and direction

a \$600,000 defamation lawsuit, which is still outstanding. Asked if he intends to keep spending out on such lion-hunters' suits during the leadership race, Day told *Maclean's*: "One of the reasons people support me is that I am transparent. I am open and honest. Even people who disagree with me step back and say they like the whole package. They like to know who they are dealing with."

While Day's views on social issues sometimes raise hackles, he has earned respect for his accomplishments as treasurer—including the introduction of Canada's first "flat tax" on incomes. He has also earned favour with the media for his quick wit with a quip—and an almost Tinkles-esque sense of the punch-up. During a lull in the Canadian Alliance's knowledge contest, Day was onstage when he suddenly snatched off his suit jacket and shirt to reveal a T-shirt with letters rolled up to his shoulders. Whipping his head around, he yelled a few martial arts katas, which naturally earned him a prominent spot in every of the nation's major newspapers the following morning.

Such antics clearly set Day apart from Manning, who, despite more than a dozen years in the limelight, often appears shy and rarely cheered in public. Day will also try to distinguish himself on more substantive issues. In one media interview after another last week, he cited his track record as a legislator and treasurer—a 2000-one-subject nomination to occupy him with Manning, who has never served in government. Whether any of this matters in the end remains to be seen. As the University of Calgary's Tiers notes, Manning is nothing if not a survivor—a politician who has been counted out on numerous occasions only to emerge firmly in the helms. "Manning is in charge of a lot of political machinery and he's going to run full-throttle," says Tiers. To any conservative, Day knows he will have to run even harder—and use all the rules savvy at his command. ☐

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Cuthbertson: a burial ground for prisoners of war

out in 1998 when the developers who owned the island announced plans to erect a 60-unit condominium complex on the land. At the time, local historians had only word-of-mouth tales of wooden crosses and graves unearthed by worms to explain how Deadman's Island got its name. But the thought of 19th-century graves being disturbed to make way for pricey waterfront condos spurred preservationists to buy up those old stones with concrete facades. Leading the charge was the North West Arm Heritage Society, headed by Guy MacLennan, the former president of Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., who pored over British Admiralty records in Nova Scotia's public archives looking for records of deaths at the camp.

Municipal authorities, meanwhile, asked Cuthbertson, the former head of Heritage for the Province of Nova Scotia, to conduct his own study to see if the island warranted special protection. The developers themselves hired an archaeologist to conduct an appraisal. Meanwhile, the *American*—with their reputation for honoring their military dead wherever they have fallen—had joined the fray. By last summer, several Ohio-area historical societies had persuaded Ohio's two senators and a congressman to lobby the U.S. state department, the Canadian ambassador in Washington and the U.S. warrent administration to build a permanent memorial for the soldiers believed to be buried there.

Eventually, the island's owners accepted that their condominium dreams were millstone. On Feb. 8, Halifax council voted to pay them \$200,000 for the island. The city plans to record a walking and bicycle path, currently being built around the North West Arm, on to the island. American officials have indicated their willingness to erect a memorial on the island. Mayor Wilbur Fingard says of the idea: "It would be nice, he says, to leave the island otherwise untouched, with the graves, or what is left of them after all this time, overgrown—but not forgotten."

Two years ago, stood the detention centre for more than 8,000 American prisoners and soldiers taken prisoner during the War of 1812, and 1,500 French nationals captured during the Napoleonic Wars of the early 1800s. By Cuthbertson's calculation, at least 265 prisoners died there, most of them victims of typhus, dysentery and smallpox that spread through their overcrowded, unsanitary quarters. Deadman's Island, then vacant except for a few fishing shacks, made a convenient burial ground.

Before long, others were also buried there: black slaves who had fled to the British lines during the War of 1812 and later ended up in Nova Scotia, only to die of smallpox; and Irish immigrants escaping the potato famine who succumbed to smallpox and typhus in 1847, when the prisoner of war camp was converted into a quarantine hospital. "It is a significant historical site," says David Cuthbertson, curator of archaeology at the Nova Scotia Museum, "a fascinating window into the history of early Halifax."

That explains the appeal that bea-

By John DeMont in Halifax

Brian Cuthbertson's boots are seldom as he makes his way up the heavily treed incline on the point of land jutting into Halifax's North West Arm. He walks carefully—the terrain on Deadman's Island is slippery, and he has also been known to yield the occasional ghoul-like surprise. "They buried them in canvas bags in shallow, unmarked graves," the historian and author says of the 400 prisoners of war and immigrants who were interned on the island in the early 1800s. The dead, as a result, did not always stay buried. Forty-one years ago, a man living in the area found a skull putting from frozen ground. And as the years before the First World War, Charles Langley, the owner of a dance hall on the island, dug up three skulls and, with ghoul-like ingenuity, kept them in the basement to scare off bachelors.

Those bones those were still never be known. Deadman's Island—actually a 2.5-acre peninsula—often a perfect view of the Annapolis Yacht Club, just a hundred yards across the water. There,



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Teen starts murder trial

The trial of Kelly Elsdé, 17, the last of eight teens charged in the November, 1997, beating death of 16-year-old Rebecca Vilk, began in Vancouver. Elsdé is charged with second-degree murder, and is being tried in adult court due to the seriousness of the crime.

Ottawa takes over student loans

The troubled federal human resources department took over control of the country's \$1.5-billion student loans program after negotiations with the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to renew a five-year contract failed. At issue for the banks was the high default rate for student loans—27 per cent in 1997. Ottawa had been paying the three big banks a five-per-cent risk premium of between \$50 million and \$75 million a year to administer the

program and had offered to hike that to 9.75 per cent, or about \$155 million, but the banks wanted greater concessions (the Toronto Dominion Bank and the Bank of Montreal had already dropped out of the student loans business).

The move comes at a time when the human resources department and minister Jean Sheeran are already under great pressure because of an ongoing scandal over \$1 billion in poorly supervised job-creation grants. The RCMP is currently investigating in at least 12 companies that had dealings with the department. Three of the investigations are in Prince William Jean Charest's riding of Saint-Maurice.

Punishing police for criminal acts

The Quebec government announced it will introduce legislation that would allow for the firing of police officers found guilty of criminal offences after two convictions. Montreal officers were thought to go back to work. Officers Pierre Bergeron and Lucien Samuël were sentenced to 90 days in jail for the 1993 beating of cabby Richard Barabé, who died after 29 months in a coma. They were ordered fired for using excessive force, but a Quebec Court judge overturned the ruling, citing a technicality, and only suspended them.

Accutal in a car chase

Two Toronto motorists were found not guilty of dangerous driving in a car chase that killed 73-year-old cyclist Cyril Bernier. In 1998, officers Kati Belliveau and Gerald O'Kane were chasing a stolen van that lost control and crashed. Bernier, who was riding on a sidewalk. The driver of the van, then 15, pleaded guilty in 1998 to criminal negligence causing death and was sentenced to two years in custody. Bernier's daughter, Bernia Bern, expressed disappointment with last week's verdict—and urged over the strong presence of police officers during the 18-day trial which, she claimed, intimidated the jury.

Smoking as a disability

In a landmark labour decision, an arbitrator with the B.C. Labour Relations Board concluded that heavily addicted smokers were susceptible to alcoholism, drug addiction and people suffering from a physical or mental disability, and should be protected by the province's Human Rights Act. The arbitration began in 1996 after Corinne Lal endorsed a strict no-smoking policy at its kid-line outlet as Tiff, B.C. The United Steelworkers Union challenged the rule, saying it was discriminatory, and the arbitrator agreed. Corinne Lal spokesman said the no-smoking policy will only in effect end the company and the union with out a definition of "heavily addicted."

Ludwig on tape

The ongoing oil-spill vandalism and of White Ludwig and Richard Boon are featured the testimony of Robert Wright, Ludwig's friend-turned-RCMP informant. Wright had secretly taped conversations with Ludwig for the Muskegs. The recordings—a total of 29 hours, most of which were of poor sound quality—were played by the Crown in court to determine whether they can be admitted as evidence. On the tapes, Wright and Wright on behind closed doors different oil-well and a plan to bomb a gas compression station. But Wright, RCMP informant, also heard Ludwig telling him about leading Ludwig on Junior Starling. Starlingman will make this ruling this week.



Nain, a crisis among Inuit and Innu in Labrador

Crisis in Labrador

Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin announced that he will create a committee to study the chronic problems faced by aboriginals after yet another death struck Nain, Labrador's largest Inuit community. Since the beginning of the year, 15 people have died of various causes in the town, the last being 15-year-old Marnie Anupstok, who died last Wednesday (Abraham Zappa, 36, has been charged with second-degree murder). Three people have committed suicide since Feb. 19, among them the daughter of Williams Barbour, president of the Labrador Inuit Association. "Within Nain, we are dealing with a major crisis," Barbour said last week as he welcomed Tobin's committee.

The new committee will also study the problems faced by the aboriginals of Labrador, whose plight was brought to world attention in 1995 after six men were videotaped screaming that they wanted to die after suffling gas in an air-heated shack in sub-zero temperatures.

Proving French is in danger

The French language will always be in danger in Quebec, a provincial government lawyer said in Quebec Superior Court. The argument was part of the province's appeal of last October's acquittal of two Enniscorthy Township antique store owners on charges of contravening the province's French language charter. The couple had posted a bilingual sign with English and French lettering of equal size, instead of French dominating—in the charter calls for. But a lower court judge threw out the charges and struck down the commis-

sional sign provisions of the charter because the government had not proved that French was threatened in the province. Last week, government lawyer Jean-Yves Bernard argued that those who challenge the language laws must prove French is no longer at risk—the other way around.

Lies and politics

In what may be a precedent-setting case, B.C. Supreme Court Judge Gloria Phelan overturned last November's majority election in the village of McBride, in the northeastern part of the province, because winning candidate Mike Fraser had spent his campaign time on a boat. The case centered around a boat bill distributed by Fraser less than 48 hours before voting day. On the basis of evidence from 18 witnesses, Phelan decided Fraser knew the document contained false information about his rival, incumbent Maurice Bonneauville. McBride, a town of 580 people about 500 km northeast of Vancouver, will now hold another by-election. Bonneauville has said he will not be a candidate. Fraser has not yet decided if he will run again.

Inquest into tragedy

The coroner's inquest into the death of Miles Neuen at St. Agnes Catholic school in Chatham, Ont., opened in nearby Wellandburg. The 10-year-old boy was found hanging from a coat hook in a bathroom stall on Feb. 6, 1999, he suffered irreversible brain damage as a result of the incident and died on days later after being taken off life support. The inquest heard testimony that Neuen had been harassing a schoolmate to repay \$10 owed to him because of a bet he allegedly won in a coloring contest. That boy, who is now 13, testified that he did nothing Neuen from the coat hook. During an earlier police investigation, he had said that an older friend, now 14, had said he would "take care of the bet once and for all." Last week, when asked directly whether the older boy could have hung Miles on the hook, the 13-year-old said, "I don't know." The older boy is also due to testify at the inquest.

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Canadian Forces Sgt. Gustavo Cyr (front) and colleagues on patrol in East Timor, packing up after a productive five-month posting.

And one of the new territory's leaders, Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos Horta, who has returned from 24 years in exile, says he thanks Ottawa and its troops for Timor's needs to be at odds with Canadian public sentiment. "Canada is almost totally absent," says Ramos Horta, who plans to visit Ottawa this spring.

Since the Canadian military's arrival in October as part of a UN-sponsored peacekeeping force, its presence has been very much as evidence. The soldiers' first task was to end the violence and establish security in the territory. Unlike similar missions in other nations where peace remains an elusive goal, "that mission has been accomplished," says Maj. Alan Gauthier, commander of the infantry company based in Zaranala. It was responsible for an area of coastal plains and mountains in south-western Timor that the United Nations dubbed Sector Gendry.

Aside from responding to periodic flashes of violence, the soldiers were able to turn much of their attention to recent months to rebuilding a poor and damaged land. Mending

wharves, the troops headed east to a nearby village. There, the headman, Mariano Araujo, explained that only about 100 of the 700 former residents have come back from refuge in West Timor, where intimidation by Indonesian-backed militias is hindering the return of refugees. Aid organizations have been unable to distribute enough rice. Crops were burned and animals killed or stayed in Indonesia, Araujo said, but under the security blanket of the Canadian troops, people have been preparing for the first harvest in an independent East Timor. The militias destroyed many things, he said, but "they didn't burn the land."

The patrol continued past a burned-out sugar-processing plant and tiny towns with roofs a colourful patchwork of carpenters branded with the names of various aid agencies. Children rode many bicycles along the road, past fields where their parents tended the rice crop, oblivious to the tropical heat and occasional rain. In the small town of Cassa, a wedding in the newly repaired Santa Yuseph Roman Catholic Church attracted a crowd of well-wishers.

Out of Timor

Canadian peacekeepers leave the fledgling state amid concerns the job has not been completed

By Warren Canagata in Zaranala

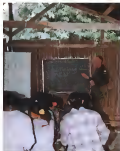
The brilliant green of new shoots in the rice paddies provides a sharp contrast to the dusty grey of the runoff from limestone runs in the Moss Moss River, trailing lazily through East Timor's fertile southern coastal plain. Under the spreading limbs of a banyan tree, the women and girls of Zaranala village fetch water from a shallow spring. Full jugs perched on heads, they pick their way along the narrow strips of muddy dikes separating the rice fields for the few kilometers back to their homes. Last week, they stopped to watch as a Canadian soldier, Sgt. Yvon Tremblay, struggled to make their daily chores a little lighter. Assisted by a few fellow soldiers and a noisy, endemiac crew of local kids, Tremblay, one of 381 Canadian military posted in East Timor, was in muddy water up to his thighs, unrolling a pipe leading down to Zaranala. "It's very important for the village," said a Timorese helper, Mariano Araujo. "It's very far to the spring, and it's a very difficult path."

The job holds less significance to the mandarin in Ottawa.

Tremblay and his fellow soldiers from the Royal 22nd Regiment in Valcartier, Que., wound up five months of operations at the end of last week and began preparing to return home. They are the remainder of what—at its peak of 850 members—was Canada's biggest peacekeeping mission in Asia since Korea in the early '50s. As Canada amasses peacekeeping operations around the world, the Van Diemen will not be replaced in East Timor. For Canada's hard-pressed military, "the commitment of ground troops was not sustainable," says Capt. Roger Girouard, the naval officer who commanded the \$32.5-million mission, code-named Operation Tamarac.

With the soldiers' anniversary departure, the only official Canadian presence in East Timor is to prepare for independence under UN administration. It will be a squad of 14 police officers from the RCMP and municipal forces, and there are rumours they too, could be on the way home. Ottawa has not yet revealed how much money will be available in the fiscal year starting next month for East Timor aid projects managed by the Canadian International Development Agency. Canada's ambassador to Indonesia, Ken Sirois, says Canada is not abandoning Timor, which has fired itself from a bloody 25-year Indonesian occupation that ended last year with a two-month rampage of looting and burning by the departing Indonesian military. "There is no explanation that we are running away," he told Maclean's.

Others are less sure. UN administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello told Maclean's he was "disappointed" that Canada has declined an invitation to maintain a peacekeeping presence



Tremblay (in water) helping install water piped. Sgt. Patrick Nanny teaching English in Zaranala (left), turning much of their attention to rebuilding a shattered land.

troops destroyed about 80 per cent of the territory's buildings and erased most of the population of 880,000 to flee their homes. Canadian Forces police Sirois, Gauthier says many of the troops gave up days off to pitch in with the rebuilding. "They see a great need here," he says, "and they want to contribute."

Life in East Timor is beginning to resume its normal rhythms, nowhere more so than in rural areas like Sector Gendry. Last week, Sgt. Claudio Dubel led four soldiers armed with C-7 assault rifles on one of the last of their patrols through the Canadian sector. Driving fat-wheeled all-terrain

Dubel, a veteran of 14 years in the army, including a peacekeeping tour in Haiti, is proud of the Canadian soldiers' accomplishments in Timor. "These people needed help," he said. "If I could help, I am happy with that." But, like everyone else on the mission, he is happy to be going home. Dubel's five-month absence has not been easy for his wife, Sandra, and children Sofiane, 7, and John, 5. A portable pipe among the soldiers a 10-minute lesson on their weekly phone calls home, not enough time to help sort out family problems.

The Canadian help came in many forms. With a \$10,000 grant from the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta, the soldiers re-

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World

break a school and hospital in Zumaia, created a soccer field with possibly the only netted goals in all of East Timor, built a playground, cut down large trees for use as dugout canoes and gave new life to an old tractor long given up for dead. While some projects involved the concerted efforts of several soldiers over a period of weeks, others were simple acts of kindness. Parvizo Montu, age 80, lay briefly on a stretcher supported by sawhorses in the Zumaia medical post while Warrant Officer Duncan Morton and his staff dressed an infected wound the boy suffered when gored by a water buffalo. Parvizo went home with a strawberry milkshake and instructions to take his antibiotics.

In the final days, a series of attacks on local residents by militias from West Timor has made the main job of keeping the peace in East Timor more difficult. The United Nations considers the continuing attacks more a dangerous nuisance than a real threat to peace, now secured by some 9,000 troops from more than 20 nations. "They will not destabilize us here," says the United Nations' Vicar de Mello. In the view of some observers, a legacy risk to stability comes from within East Timor, where 80 per cent of the people have no means of support, the economy is dormant and thousands of foreign experts receiving expensive wages run daily with people who have nothing. The crime rate is on the rise and the main population centers of Dili and Baucau have experienced gang violence.

Some accuse the UN administration of being too slow to get large-scale reconstruction under way. "The mix of street gangs in urban areas as well as labour unrest in Dili indicates that the reconstruction is over," says a Canadian Forces document. The assessment of one Canadian observer is more blunt: "The place is going to hell in a handbasket." But Vicar de Mello dismisses the criticism, saying he is working as fast as he can to inject some money into the economy, noting he has only been on the job a few months. Yes, he adds, "I can understand the frustration of the Timorese." The United Nations has established a judicial system, it is recruit-

Canada's global peacekeepers

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MIDDLE EAST: More than 250, including two in Cyprus (1960) and 190 on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights of Syria (1974)

AFRICA: Five in Sierra Leone (1990), one in the Democratic Republic of Congo (1995), and three engineers in Mozambique (1995)

ASIA/PACIFIC: Seven with the UN mine-removal team in Cambodia (1991), and the 280 about to return from East Timor (1999)

AMERICAS: Five with a UN police mission in Haiti (1993), and one on a peace-verification mission in Guatemala (1997)

() Year of deployment

ing a civil service and, with the help of RCMP Cpl. Daryl Davies of Newmarket, Ont., is setting up a police college for Timorese recruits.

Ramos Horta thinks some critics exaggerate the problems. "With development funds starting to flow, he says, "six months from now it will be different." One reason for optimism: a \$2.1-billion natural gas project in the Timor Gap off the south coast is to go into production by late 2003. As they head home, the Canadian troops can take comfort in knowing they have helped give the people of East Timor a taste of peace and the beginnings of a free, stable society. "Whatever the scope of Canada's mandate, that is a proud legacy."

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A search for unity

The Pope makes a pilgrimage to the politically sensitive birthplace of three religions

Age and failing health have robbed less of the dynamic energy he once possessed. But Pope John Paul II unequivocally asserts his flair for dramatic gestures that capture the attention of the faithful, and of the world media. This was evident last month

when the 79-year-old Roman Catholic pontiff, who has visited more than 120 countries since becoming pope in October 1978, spent two days in Egypt meeting religious leaders and praying at sacred sites. Nine weeks, he continues on a highly symbolic seven-day odyssey to the Holy Land, the first papal excursion since Paul VI in 1964 on a mission regarded as sacred by Christians, Muslims and Jews alike, and reserved for its visible, often unacknowledged, religious, political. "The journey seems to have been very carefully crafted," says Archbishop Thomas Pröschner of Mainz, a biblical scholar who has studied in Israel. "It's an attempt to find some unity among the various groups, if that's possible."

The Pope will cover a broad swath of political and spiritual territory during his March 26 to 28 trip. He will spend time in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, and visit places that are holy to followers of all three faiths. He will meet Jordan's King Abdullah II, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. He will also confer privately with two of Israel's chief rabbis, the senior Muslim

clergy in Jerusalem and leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Religious leaders have high hopes that the trip could help to improve interfaith relations. In a mass job before his departure from the Vatican, John Paul was to apologize for historic church-entailed wrongs such as the Spanish Inquisition, the Crusades and mistreatment of Jews. "Catholics look to the Pope for guidance," says Rabbi David Margalit of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple. "Who is involved in Chris-

tianity? Moses visited the Promised Land. In the Palestinian territories, he will see Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, in Israel, his steps include Nazareth, where Christ spent his childhood, and the Mount of the Beatitudes, near the site where, Christians believe, He delivered hissermons and tales to his followers.

In Jerusalem, where the three religions meet and overlap, he will visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which, according to teachings, stands on the site of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Christ. His meeting with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem will take place at Masjid Aqsa, the complex that encompasses the Dome of the Rock where the Muslim prophet Muhammad is said to have ascended into heaven.

The Pope will also visit the Western Wall, revered by Jews as the only part of the Second Temple left standing when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70.

While church leaders stress the spiritual objectives of the trip, politics looms just beneath the surface. Father Thomas Rosica, chaplain of the Newman Center at the University of Toronto and a former resident of Jerusalem, and the Vatican has tried to avoid being drawn into any political agenda. It is not easy. A Palestinian official, Rami Jarrah, for example, says the Pope will visit a refugee camp where he can "see for himself the way some people are still living in the year 2000." And barely more than a week before the trip, the Vatican was negotiating with Israel for access to a closed military zone on the Jordan River where John the Baptist is said to have baptized Jesus. "This is the most significant step of John Paul's pontificate," said Rosica. "He is returning to the source of our salvation, and I think the eyes of the world will be fixed on him."

self the way some people are still living in the year 2000."

For John Paul, the trip to Egypt and the Holy Land are pilgrimages to places where, according to the teachings of all three faiths, God conversed with men. They take place in a landmark year in the Christian calendar, symbolizing the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus. While in Egypt, the Pope visited Mount Sinai, where, according to the Bible, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. In Jordan, he will go to the ruins of Mount Nebo from which the

Touring the Holy Land



viewed the Jordan River, it is bound to encourage others.

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A botched assassination

Four suspected Tamil Tiger assassins blew themselves up in an apartment in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, where they fled after a failed assassination attempt. Twenty-three people died and more than 80 were injured, many of them passing on their police-buried in an armed group along the route of a motorcade carrying government and military officials.

Flood aid for Mozambique

Heavy rains continued to drench flood-ravaged Mozambique, severely hampering attempts to get food and medicine to people stranded from their homes. The floods have killed hundreds and left 250,000 homeless. At two Canadian Forces cargo planes left Toronto, Ont., carrying relief and construction materials, including water-purification equipment and blankets. Ottawa added \$10 million to its aid package for Mozambique, bringing it to a total of \$11.6 million.

Chinese official executed

As part of a drive to clean up widespread corruption, China executed a former provincial vice-governor for taking more than \$950,000 in bribes. The execution of Hu Changping, the most senior official to be put to death in 30 years of Communist rule, followed a series of corruption scandals.

Cherchen battle rages

Despite claims that a bad snow has slowed the war with the breakaway state of Chechnya, Russian troops again met strong resistance from rebels in a small village in the south of the country. After a week of Russian shelling, up to 1,500 rebels split into small groups, were still fighting fiercely.

Surgeons transplant hands

Austrian surgeons carried out the world's second double-hand transplant on Theodor Kutz, a policeman crippled in a terrorist bombing. Chief surgeon Ruediger Magnus, who led the 17-hour operation in Innsbruck, said the operation will lead to a new era in transplant surgery. The first such operation took place in Lyon, France, in January.

World Notes



A powerful beauty, a natural menace

The Mayon volcano in central Philippines has been erupting strongly enough for the past two weeks to raise speculation that its dust will form a veil in the Earth's upper atmosphere and cool global temperatures by partially blocking the sun's rays. Residents of the downwind town of Quezon (inset) cover their faces as the volcano blankets the region in ash.

The White House race narrows to two

Arizona Senator John McCain emerged from his races over Tedious, Ariz., to confirm he had suspended his quagmire campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. Just hours earlier, Bill Bradley the former senator and sometime basketball star, announced at his New Jersey campaign headquarters that he was ending his bid to become the Democratic candidate. Their departure, one day after week showings in the Super Tuesday primaries in Kansas, leaves the campaign for the Nov. 7 U.S. presidential elec-

tion to Vice-President Al Gore for the Democrats and Republican Gov. George W. Bush of Texas—a battle the pressies to be highly acrimonious.

Strategists on both sides immediately focused their sights on the independent voters who flocked to the McCain camp. With polls showing Gore and Bush running risk and neck, the independent vote is emerging as a critical factor. Gore was quick to adopt a popular theme of McCain by promising to tighten the rules of campaign financing. Bush, meanwhile, is likely to take his campaign off-line—to shore up his weak image in international affairs by traveling to world capitals to meet foreign leaders.

French peacekeepers wounded in Kosovo

More than 40 people, including 16 French peacekeepers, were injured in the northern Kosovo powder keg of Mitrovica as an altercation between ethnic Albanians and Serbs turned violent. NATO forces have been trying to move Albanians back into apartments where they lived before last year's war in Kosovo—as an act of the newly divided city now controlled by Serbs. Seven fighting erupted in Albanian tried to cross between the two communities. The French soldiers were caught in a cross fire and hit by grenades.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

The Canadian economy is finally gushing with them—as companies dangle perks to attract scarce talent

By Patricia Chisholm

John Jacobson has been through a lot of boom and bust cycles over the past 30 years, but he's never seen anything quite like this. As vice-president in charge of operations for Calgary contractor Precision Drilling Corp., Jacobson has to move fast when oil prices rise and the demand for drilling crews shoots upward. Right now, Precision has 206 rigs, each staffed by three five-man crews, running five rigs—up from 139 rigs a year ago—and the company is still about another 20 crews. There are plenty of applications from inexperienced workers: Precision has 2,000 on file and will add any more right now. But finding staff who know what they are doing is devilishly tough. Precision's personnel staff are working 12-hour days trying to find people, even though the pay for drillers is good—about \$35 an hour for someone with equipment know-how. "This upturn is quicker than I've seen in the past," Jacobson says. "These cycles are part of our business and you learn to live with it, but it does slow us down when we have to compete with other industries, like construction."

Finally, the turnaround is here. After almost a decade of

persistently high unemployment, skilled Canadian workers are in big demand. In December, the unemployment rate hit its 24-year low of 6.8 per cent, which it maintained through January and again when February's numbers came out last Friday. Each month, Statistics Canada said the rate would have been even lower if tens of thousands of formerly discouraged workers had not resumed looking for work. More than 44,000 new jobs were created in January, with another 36,000 added last month. Ontario has been one of the biggest job creators, but British Columbia is also on the comeback trail. Cases like Montreal, once plagued by bad news, are also showing strong labour-market growth. January's surge included 39,000 positions in health care and social services, while almost all of February's gains went due to new full-time jobs in the private sector, where rising prices for commodities and robust consumer spending are fueling sustained economic expansion. "We're finally catching up after a very difficult decade," notes Peter Drabie, vice-president and deputy chief economist at the Toronto Dominion Bank. "Nothing is ever guaranteed, but there are lots of reasons to think this is a solid recovery for the labour market."

Jobs are sprouting again almost everywhere: where skilled labour is required, including the public sector, private business and the ranks of the self-employed. Half of January's gains were among those starting up new businesses. Deborah Kadarian, 31, is one new entrepreneur who took advantage of improving economic conditions to risk taking up on her own. A Montreal advertising account executive who had worked in marketing for eight years, Kadarian went into business with a partner last November, 13 months after giving birth to her first child, and has already landed income statements in the financial and pharmaceutical industries. She has been so busy she has not had time to order lunch for the company. Publicist Barbara "I always wanted to have my own agency and it was clear things were improving in Montreal," Kadarian says. "If you have the experience and you think you can do it better than someone else, you probably can."

Good times are also making it easier for employed workers on move into better jobs. Russ Perlevis has been a graphic designer for 14 years, the past three in Vancouver, where she worked as a freelancer for the company that publishes The Yellow Pages. She has always been able to find work, but she could hardly believe it when her job search last fall yielded seven interviews in one week. She finally whittled the choices down to three: a full-time job at The Yellow Pages,



Precision: a turn of events that pulled some interviewers to our neck

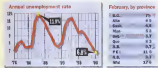
three- or four-day work weeks, with no downside when it comes to promotion or raises. Paul Cech, a senior vice-president with the executive search arm of Toronto-based management consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, has been helping companies find executives for about 20 years and says candidates definitely hold more of the bargaining chips these days. As a result, many companies are working far harder to get—and keep—key personnel. "Employees are becoming very conscious of their reputations and whether they are seen as a good place to work," Cech says, noting that pay and opportunities for advancement remain top priorities for most executives. And quite often, being a star is not the end of the story. "Even when the person is happy," Cech adds, "employees have to be aware that they could lose them to someone else who taps them on the shoulder six months later."

Groups Coyne, president and CEO for Kanata, Ont., semiconductor provider Mosaic Technologies Inc., agrees that finding the best people has become much tougher, especially over the past six months or so. In that period, the 200-employee company has hired about 35 new staff, including engineers, sales and marketing personnel, and people who oversee operations and manufacturing. Currently, Mosaic is looking to fill 30 or 40 more positions. Coyne says the company is proud of the market it offers, such as an attractive office complex that includes a converted heritage house, a park-like setting, a library for employees and a pool room. But like many other firms, Mosaic is facing increasingly stiff foreign competition. "The rest of the world has discovered that Canada has some very talented people," Coyne says. "They are being lured in the U.S., as well as to U.S. branch plants that are paying up here and offering compensation on a par with their parent companies."

For the moment, things are certainly looking good for Canadians with marketable skills. And as the TD Bank's Desha notes, many forecasts believe Canada will lead the Group of Seven countries this year, with an economic growth rate of close to four per cent. But good times have been a long time coming and they won't go on forever. Gilles Rousseau, vice-president of innovation and regulatory affairs for the Ottawa-based Conference Board of Canada, notes that Canada still lags badly behind many other industrialized nations when it comes to research and development, as well as investing in new equipment and innovative technologies—key factors in developing a recession-resistant economy. And if the dollar appreciates strongly, or if the economy of Canada's largest trading partner—the United States—slumps, or commodity prices fall, watch out. The time for employees to take advantage of a tight labour market is right now, he says, adding wryly, "I can hope for the best." If the economy steps on track, though, the best may be yet to come. ■

Lowest in a generation

The Montreal Olympiad had not even opened the last time the national unemployment rate was so low. The current rate of 6.8 per cent was last reached in April, 1976.



Source: Statistics Canada

No More Laughter

Scandals pummel kids' TV heavyweight Cinar and its once-golden husband-and-wife team

By Andrew Clark

As first days at the office go, it was the most bizarre in Peter Moss's career. On March 6, he reported for his first day as president of entertainment for Montreal-based children's TV programmer Cinar Corp. Moss arrived to find "the whole place had been turned upside down," he recalls. That morning, Cinar, which produces the Emmy award-winning kids' series *Arthur*, had announced that about \$179 million of its funds had been invested without the approval of its board of directors. Cinar's founders and onetime executive officers, its husband-and-wife team of chairman Mitchell Chertoff and president Ronald Weinberg, resigned. The company fired senior executive vice-president Harrison Parry. That evening, at a wine-and-dine party initially planned to welcome him, Moss tried to bolster morale. As Weinberg and Chertoff looked on, he told the company's employees: "People forget what Cinar does best. In 150 countries around the world, children are laughing because of the programming Cinar makes."

No one questions Cinar's ability to produce programming; since the company has an extremely valuable cache of children's television shows, among them *Winx's House*, *The Adventures of Paddington Bear* and *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* Cinar's financial affairs, however, are very much in question. Federal authorities are investigating the company for too frugal bookkeeping: one Canadian class-action suit and three from the



Weinberg and Chertoff with *Paddington Bear* celebrated

United States. It has a new president and CEO—Bette Usher—and a new chairman—Lawrence Mink. Cinar's stock was in free-fall last week, dropping 70 per cent on March 7. Two days later, both the Toronto Stock Exchange and Nasdaq halted trading in Cinar for a second time that week. On March 10, the company announced that it will "likely" have to change the last three years of its financial statements after an independent audit. Accountants from the Ontario Securities Commission and the Quebec Securities Commission also began gathering information on Cinar's books. "When their research is completed," said OSG spokesman Frank Switzer, "a decision will be made about what action may be required."

The first sign of trouble had appeared late October, when it was revealed that the RCMP was investigating Cinar. The Mounties were looking into the possibility that Cinar put Canadian names on scripts by American screenwriters in order to receive tax credits. Although no charges have been laid, the hint of scandal triggered a sell-off of Cinar stock, but it recovered and in February hit \$39.30. The investigation seemed to have caused only a little turbulence.

But later last month, Cinar told investors that the fallout from the RCMP's investigation might seriously hurt the

company's stock. Its price began to tumble again. Then came last week's bombshaking announcement that about \$179 million had been invested without approval of the board, and investors panicked. Cinar seemed to blame Parry, who denied any wrongdoing, saying the corporation was aware of the investments. On March 8, Cinar announced it had lost about \$52 million of the funds and that the remaining \$126 million was locked up in corporate bonds. The stock tumbled a little, but shareholders were not mollified.

The first Canadian class-action suit landed on March 8. The Montreal law firm of Ungerberg, Labelle, Leblanc & Margot filed a claim against Cinar on behalf of the *Association de protection des éparpillés et investisseurs du Québec*, an investor lobby group. Paul Ungerberg, the lead lawyer, believes Cinar withheld information so as to buoy its stock, and he accuses Weinberg, Chertoff, Parry, and vice president Jeffrey Gensini of seven violations of Quebec securities law and civil code. "There are so many unanswered questions," Ungerberg says. "Cinar's press release says that the board had not approved the \$179 million, but it didn't say that they didn't know about it. There is a difference."

Until last October, Cinar had a golden image. The company is one of Canada's top animation houses, styled only by Toronto-based Nelvana Ltd., and its partnerships with broadcasters around the world. Chertoff and Weinberg joined in 1976 at a New Orleans film festival and that same year formed Cinar as a distribution company. They married in 1983 and a year later began producing nonviolent kids' shows. Cinar launched its first series, *The Wonderful World of Dinu* in 1987. The company became successful by turning well-known books (Paddington) and children's characters (Lassie) into successful series.

Financial worries aside, there are millions of people (most children) whose number 1 concern is a curious anarchy named *Arthur* and the series that bears his name. *Arthur*, which Cinar created with Boston's PBS station WGBH, is its most popular offering. Based on the award-winning books by American writer Brenson, *Arthur* won Daytime Emmy awards in 1998 and 1999. Nielsen has ranked it the top series for kids between 2 and 11 in the United States. Says the series' publisher, Elizabeth Coe: "We have been assured that the production of *Arthur* will not be affected."

But the scandal has tarnished the golden aura around Chertoff and Weinberg, who, in the 1990s, became almost as celebrated as the programs they produced. The parents of two teenage sons, their dedication to no-violent programming appealed to parents and kids. Their financial success won them the respect of money people. Weinberg, 48, an American by birth, concentrated on finance and marketing. Chertoff, 46, looked after production and international deals. She was also an outspoken advocate of Canadian culture and industry. In 1997, the *daily Hollywood Reporter*



Cinar productions (clockwise from above) *Emily of New Moon*, *Lassie*, *Arthur*, *Winx's House*, *Arthur* partnerships around the world and a dedication to nonviolent children's programming



ranked Chertoff the 19th most powerful woman in entertainment. In recent months, Chertoff and Weinberg have lowered their profile and, although they remained on the Cinar board, they did not speak with reporters last week. "Cinar has been a well-respected company for years," says Nelvana co-chief executive officer Michael Hersh. "It is a pity for them and for the company."

It is even more unfortunate for the shareholders. Cinar's stock peaked last July at \$44.50. Boston-based Fidelity Management and Research Co. is the largest investor, holding 15 per cent of Cinar's shares through six or more mutual funds. In brokerage across the country, a rude despondency set in among brokers who had once been bullish about Cinar. "I don't want to look people when they're down," and one "I'd actually question." Some analysts believe an external takeover is inevitable. Companies such as CanWest Global Communications Corp. and Nelvana have been pegged as possible suitors, although neither would comment.

Cinar's newest employer remains optimistic. Moss, who was vice-president of YTV and head of children's programming at the CBC, says Cinar's founders are also determined to see their company survive. "They are back and ready to fight back. I know it sounds crazy, but we are planning for the other side of the mountain." Since its creation 20 years ago, Cinar has specialized in happy endings. The question now on Cinar's mind: one for real? ■

Scary story

The closing price of Cinar Corp.'s B-class shares



How high will gas prices go?

As the cost at the pump spirals out of sight, relief depends on OPEC's desires



Gibson fills up. Prices are screaming.

Victoria writer Katherine Gibson knows she is taking her at-home office slash her from the full effect of the sharp spike in gasoline prices that is plaguing other Canadians. But sometimes the car's used using her sponsor car to get around, and the thought of filling up as well as giving her gas pump "Prices are screaming here," she said last week. "Today, it's 72.9 cents a litre." And British Columbia's fuel is relatively good—in Atlantic Canada prices stand just 80 cents. Like many Canadians, Gibson wanted to know why gas is, on average, up by 41 per cent over this time last year, and still climbing. "I know the reasons are there," she said, "so why the crazy prices?"

The main reason, experts say is the policies of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. For much of OPEC's 45-year history, some members

have broken ranks by increasing production in the case of crude runs. That lack of consensus helped keep a barrel of oil at the \$18 to \$21 range for most of the last decade. But over the past year, the group has maintained a mutual discipline, keeping production levels constant even though demand has been rising. The result? A worldwide spiral in prices that has pushed a barrel of benchmark crude to more than \$30 (U.S.), its highest level since the early 1980s when it went past \$40 (U.S.).

Relief may be in sight. Last week, Iran and Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producers, pledged "adequate and timely oil supplies," bolstering the widely held view that the cartel will agree to a moderate increase in production when the group meets in Vienna on March 27. It would come in time for summer travel, though. While there is almost consensus over how long it takes for decreases in crude prices to reach consumers, analysts say the combination of high case inventories and rising seasonal demand will keep gas prices up at least until late summer or early fall. If it is any consolation, notes Calgary refinery and marketing consultant Michael Ervin of M Ervin & Associates, Canadians are not alone. "We really just have to grin and bear it," Ervin says. "Consumers everywhere are else in the world are in the same situation."

That doesn't, of course, make filling up any less painful. Prices in Halifax hit 88 cents a litre last week. (Variations in provincial tax rates explain much of the differential between provinces.) "It's a drag," says Halifax sporting goods sales agent Colin Harmer, paying \$50 to fill up his station wagon. "I'm glad I'm not driving an SUV right now," he adds. "It would look great, but I couldn't afford to move it." In Cobourg, Ont., teacher Rod Simpson craves his area

looking for the cheapest pump. "You have to get to work, so you can't protest the prices," he says.

In fact, there are widespread concerns that higher fuel charges could put a damper on a still-expanding economy. But economists say that although oil prices will push up the cost of products that are shipped, rough competition will also help keep a lid on consumer prices for these blue goods. Moreover, notes CIBC chief economist Josh Macdonald, every Western economy is more fuel-efficient now. A worldwide rise in inflation is likely only if oil goes high longer than expected, he says. "The question is how long will these prices last, and how high will they go?" Only OPEC can say.

Patricia Chabudas with Tanya Danner in Toronto

The real cost

With gasoline costing Canadians an average of 72.6 cents per litre last week, pump prices are at record levels. But when inflation is factored in—not to mention the OPEC oil crisis of the 1970s, the devaluation of Canadian prices in 1990 and the Gulf War buildup in 1990—it turns out real prices have been even worse in the past.

Average price of gasoline per litre, in constant 1995 dollars



Automotive Marketplace

ONTARIO

The Revolution in Automotive Retailing

JENNIS DesRosiers

If

you stand on the edge of our automotive industry and look into our factories there is quite a positive story to be told.

Although there are still many improvements to be made in our assembly and parts sector, they are now more evolutionary than revolutionary. But if you look into the distribution channels and retail network, you will see a segment of the industry that is still trying to get a grip on a number of serious issues.

To begin with, consumers have an almost complete contempt for the buying process.

THEIR LIST OF COMPLAINTS IS LONG:

- Dealers not giving the information required to make a decision
- Misleading and confusing prices
- Poorly trained sales staff
- Having to deal with three or four different people at the dealership
- Being sold what the dealer wants to sell rather than what the consumer wants to buy
- Pressure to buy accessories such as rustproofing and fabric protection and additional services such as extended warranties

For the survivors at dealerships it will mean a more pleasant working environment, better careers and more profits. For consumers, it will mean the elimination of many of today's showroom irritants. This, in turn, should result in increased sales efficiency, more stable pricing and overall, a more enjoyable buying experience.

Some changes are already taking place in Canada. There are now about 600 fewer dealers than in 1993 when dealer counts peaked in Canada. In addition, a number of superstores have emerged and automalls are now present in most major cities. Automalls have six to 10 different dealers on the same site and make it easier for consumers to compare products and prices. Moreover, computer-literate consumers can access online services that provide the most recent automotive information and find out virtually everything they want to know about a vehicle before buying. Approximately 60 per

cent of the vehicle dealers in Canada have Web sites and I highly recommend that consumers visit these Web sites to get a better understanding of what their local dealer is offering in terms of value and service. There are a number of other Web sites which provide independent advice and information. Some of the better ones include:

Autobytel	www.autobytel.com
Autonet	www.autonet.ca
Car360	www.car360.com
Car Canada	www.carcanada.com
Carfax	www.carfax.com
Carfax	www.carfax.com
Carfax	www.carfax.com
Carfax	www.carfax.com
Carfax	www.carfax.com
Carfax	www.carfax.com

2000 Volvo S80 - The Best Volvo Car Ever

Volvo designers say of the S80 that they wanted to create the safest Volvo ever. The long list of awards garnered since the car's introduction suggests that they succeeded in creating the best Volvo ever.

Development of the S80 began when Volvo anticipated a demographic shift in their loyal, family-oriented market. They saw a need for a new 'post-family' car, a luxury sedan built for drivers who have traditionally taken Volvo wagons to their hearts.

Powered by a 197-horsepower transversely mounted straight-six engine, the S80 is both quick off the mark and able to generate satisfying cruise speeds in T6 form, equipped with the optional 258-horsepower twin turbo engine, the S80 is just plain fast. The competition offers little to challenge it.

Although the car bears slight physical resemblance to the stud Volvos of the past, it celebrates the Volvo tradition of safety innovation. Full-length inflatable curtains cushion and shield occupants' heads in side impacts, a whiplash protection system helps protect them in rear impacts, and new stability-enhancing systems can help a driver avoid an accident in the first place.

The Volvo S80 is a premium automobile that runs with the BMW 5-series, Mercedes E-Class, Audi A6 and Lexus GS 300, and it does so at a surprisingly affordable price for a no-apologies, no-compromise luxury sedan.



2000 Volvo S80

BEST NEW PRESTIGE CAR - AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

BEST EXTERIOR DESIGN - EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

BEST OVERALL CAR OF THE YEAR - AUTO CHANNEL

BEST LUXURY INTERIOR - INSIDE AUTOMOTIVES MAGAZINE

DRIVER'S CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST LUXURY CAR - MOTORWEEK

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CAR IN THE WORLD" - AUTOMOBILIA

HIGHEST VEHICLE IN THE INDUSTRY FOR VEHICLE SATISFACTION - AUTOPACIFIC

HIGHEST VEHICLE IN THE INDUSTRY FOR PURE PRODUCT SATISFACTION - AUTOPACIFIC

HIGHEST SINCAP RATING (5 STARS) - NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

LUXURY CAR OF THE YEAR - NATIONAL ROADS AND MOTORISTS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

INFLATABLE CURTAIN - PRINCE MICHAEL ROAD SAFETY AWARD

OUTSTANDING IMPORT OF THE YEAR - EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

WHIPLASH PROTECTION SYSTEM - PRINCE MICHAEL ROAD SAFETY AWARD

SMART CAR AWARD - EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

GRAND PRIX FOR BEST CAR - MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

TOTAL QUALITY AWARD - AUTOPACIFIC

VOLVO
for life



2000 VOLVO S80

NOW THAT WE'VE ESTABLISHED VOLVO S80'S BRAGGING RIGHTS,

YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT IT FEATURES

A MODEST 3.9% LEASE AND FINANCE RATE.

AVAILABLE ONLY UNTIL MARCH 31.

THE KUDOS, HOWEVER, GO ON AND ON...

3.9%
lease/finance
rate available
until March 31

3.9% lease or finance rate available on 2000 Volvo S80 T5 and T6. Limited time offer available until March 31, 2000 through participating Volvo dealers and Volvo Car Financial Services Canada on approved credit to qualified new customers only. Delivery required by April 9, 2000. Example: lease on a 2000 Volvo S80 T5 at \$340 per month, 36 month term, \$2400 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Monthly payments total \$11,545.21. Payment at end of lease for \$29,446.75. Example: lease on a 2000 Volvo S80 T6 at \$407 per month, 36 month term, \$2400 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Monthly payments total \$12,540.94. Payment at end of lease for \$33,448.25. Payments may vary with choice of rate adjustment. Freight and delivery of \$475. Taxes, license and optional extras. First month's lease payment and security deposit required. Lessee has a 30,000 km per year allowance (\$2.15 per km in excess). Dealer may lease for less. See your Volvo dealer for details and other lease options. Finance example: \$35,240 financed at 3.9% over 36 months, monthly payment is \$728.16. Total cost of financing is \$12,211.64. Freight and delivery of \$475. Taxes, license and optional extras. ©2000 Volvo Cars of Canada Ltd. "Volvo for life" is a trade name of Volvo Cars of Canada Ltd. Always remember to wear your seatbelt. Visit www.volvocanada.com

Dealers are now doing much more in the area of relationship marketing



But so far, no company, dealer group or factory has cracked the code in terms of understanding the fundamental driving factors of retailing success across channels, across formats and across regions of the country. The reasons for this are unclear. I personally believe it is because success in retailing is very dependent on local market factors. What works in one area of the country may be the exact opposite of what is successful in another region. I also believe most dealers have not adopted modern merchandising techniques and, given an average dealer age of close to 60, they are unlikely ever to adapt.

Fortunately for the consumer, New Age auto dealers are now emerging in Canada. These are young, aggressive dealers who embrace the retail revolution and the changing face of the dealership. They are open to new ideas. They embrace new technology. They see the cost of new technology as an investment not as an expense. They invest in their people. They think strategically.

Dealers are now doing much more in the area of relationship marketing. This requires constant contact with consumers, often through the provision of extra services, long after the sale of the vehicle. Dealers are turning their sales people into customer advocates

responsible for maintaining computer files on everything related to customer purchases and subsequent service visits.

If a buyer has a problem, the advocate will be responsible for doing whatever is possible to make sure the problem is fixed and that the customer is happy. Customers will have one contact point at the dealership to handle all aspects of the initial sale, financing, used vehicle trade-in and after-sale parts and service.

Anyway you look at it, the old, high-pressure system of selling cars is about to die a well-deserved death. We are going to see a dramatic restructuring of a ramshackle auto distribution and sales system that has not changed much since the 1950s. The current system is both costly and inefficient and is the weakest part of the auto sector's value chain.

Today's consumers are less choosy about how or where they get their vehicles. Indeed, by using the Internet, many do not even have to go to the showroom. Consumer indifference, coupled with problems in the traditional auto distribution network, has opened the door for Internet sellers, automalls and superstores. Car dealers are going to have to jettison the outdated traditional selling techniques that so many consumers find offensive. The vehicle buying process is going to change because that is the way consumers want it.

CHFI FM98

Toronto's perfect music mix.



Toronto's Radio Station

The best of the new songs, and all *your* favourites
...at home, at work, and in the car.



Unendangered Species

SO MUCH ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THE PLIGHT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES THAT, OFTEN, THE GREATER SUCCESS STORIES ARE OVERLOOKED. AND THERE ARE SOME GREAT SUCCESSORS TO BE SHARED.

TAKE, FOR INSTANCE, SPECIES LIKE WHITE-TAILED OOD, MOOSE, BEAR, AND WILD TURKEY. ALL OF THESE ANIMALS ARE INCREASING IN ONTARIO. THERE ARE MORE OF THESE ANIMALS NOW THAN THERE WERE IN 1900, AND ALL ARE BEING EMERGINGLY WELL AS ARE THE MANY OTHER SPECIES THAT SHARE ONTARIO'S NATURAL HABITAT.

WHEN CANADA AND, FOR THAT MATTER, ALL OF NORTH AMERICA WAS SETTLED, WILDLIFE EXISTED IN VARYING NUMBERS — A SIGNIFICANTLY OVERABUNDANT SUPPLY OF FOOD AND ANIMAL-RELATED PRODUCTS. THE GENERAL HARVEST WAS UNRESTRICTED AND, AT THE SAME TIME, HORN WASTES IN WILDLIFE WERE CLEARLY FOR LUMBER AND TO MAKE WAY FOR TOWN, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY. IT BECAME ALMOST OVERHEARD THAT AN ENGLISH SUPPLY OF WILDLIFE WOULD BECOME VERY, VERY LIMITED.

THE LOSS OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT DEEPLY AFFECTED THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PUBLISHED IN OUR OUTDOORS AND, LOGICALLY, HUNTERS AND ANGLERS WERE THE FIRST TO BAND TOGETHER TO FORM THE FIRST CONSERVATION GROUPS.

FROM FURBER BROTHERS, THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT HAS GROWN AND ACHIEVED SOME MARVELOUS RESULTS. GOVERNMENTS WERE LIAISON TO GREATLY LARGER PROTECTED WILDLIFE. MILLIONS OF HECTARES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT HAVE BEEN ENLARGED AND PROTECTED. COUNTLESS HOURS OF VOLUNTEER EFFORT AND DONATIONS HAVE LED TO INVALUABLE RESEARCH AND UNDERSTANDING OF WILDLIFE DYNAMICS. SPECIES, SUCH AS THE ELK AND WILD TURKEY, ARE BEING RECOVERED IN THEIR NATIVE RANGES.

CONSIDER THE GRAY CANADIAN DOG, A WATERBIRD THAT, IN 1954, WAS CONSIDERED EXTINCT. FROM A SMALL REMNANT POPULATION, THEY WERE BRINGS BACK FROM THE BRINK BY HUNTERS AND NURSING GROUPS. WATERFOWL HABITAT WAS RESTORED, LAKE WERE THATCHED, AND BREEDING AND REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED. TODAY, CANADIAN DOGS ARE A COMMON SIGHT THROUGHOUT ALL OF THEIR HISTORIC RANGE AND, IN SOME CASES, IN NUMBERS EXCEEDING IN NUMBERS LEVELS.

THE WILD TURKEY, ONCE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT IN ONTARIO, WERE REINTRODUCED BY HUNTERS IN 1984, AND NOW OVER 25,000 OF THESE BIRDS CALL THE PROVINCE HOME. ABOUT 150 YEARS AGO THE WOOD GLASS WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY BECAUSE OF OVERHARVESTING OF ITS FEATHERS. BUT, SINCE THEN, THANKS TO HUNTERS AND THEIR EFFORTS, THERE IS NOW ONE OF THE MOST COMMON GLASS.

MOOSE WERE ONCE SO RARE THAT HUNTING THEM WAS COMPLETELY BANNED FROM 1888 TO 1898. NOW, THRIVING IN NUMBERS OVER 100,000 IN ONTARIO, MOOSE ARE AGAIN A FAMILIAR PART OF OUR NATURAL LANDSCAPE. ELK WERE ALSO GONE FROM ONTARIO AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY BUT, SINCE 1907, HUNTERS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO RE-ESTABLISH THESE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS HERE.

THANKS TO HUNTERS, THERE ARE A GREAT MANY MORE MANAGED SPECIES AND WE ARE PROUD OF OUR EFFORTS THAT HAVE PROVIDED A VERY WILDLIFE LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF CANADIANS.

This conservation message brought to you by the

ONTARIO CONSERVATION



A new banking behemoth

One of the larger banks in the world will be created when Deutsche Bank AG and Dresdner Bank AG, both based in Frankfurt, merge to become an institution with assets of \$1.7 trillion. Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest, will own about 60 per cent of the new entity, still to be called Deutsche Bank AG. Officials expect that 16,000 jobs will be lost and 400 (of a combined 2,500) branches closed.

Lichtman's seeks protection

Canada's largest independent book-store chain filed for bankruptcy protection, citing overwhelming competition from giant book superstores at Chapters Inc. and Indigo Books & Music Inc. The nine-location Lichtman chain, which began in Toronto in 1985, is hoping that a reorganization will salvage at least some of its stores.

Coed and Inprise still on

Coed Corp., one of Canada's largest software companies, and California-based Inprise Corp., a maker of Internet access products, and they will plan to merge. Observers had questioned the \$1.6-billion deal, partly because the shares of both companies dropped sharply after it was announced (see month and shareholder approval is required). One major Inprise shareholder and board member who opposes the deal has already resigned.

Housing starts up sharply

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. announced housing starts were up 11.9 per cent in February over the same month in 1999. Most of the increase was due to condominium construction, which surged by 63 per cent. The flurry of spending on new homes also means more purchases of furniture and appliances.

Safety-Kleen takes a hit

South Carolina-based Safety-Kleen Corp., 40-per-cent owned by Linde Inc. of Burlington, Ont., had its credit rating downgraded by Moody's Investor Service. The company earlier suspended three top executives pending an internal investigation into financial irregularities.

Business Notes

Computer chaos at the TSE

The Toronto Stock Exchange came under heavy attack from the trading community after its computers malfunctioned for extended periods twice on the same day. Canada's business exchange was closed for the first hour of trading on March 7 due to hardware problems. It stopped again for about an hour on the afternoon because of similar malfunctions. As a result, many Canadian investors were unable to react to major market swings that were taking place in the United States on that day. The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 3.7 per cent, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq computer index rose sharply for a while, reaching record levels later in the week.

The TSE has been experiencing technical glitches for several years,



Nasdaq trades major market swings

mostly due to rising volumes and a computer system that dates to 1973. Last week's problems, however, were the first such episode within a month and some of the exchange's members said they doubted whether the TSE will be able to function reliably until September, when it is scheduled to switch over to an updated system. The exchange's international operations could suffer as a result, they said.

New faces for old friends

The Bank of Canada said it will replace the pictures of wildlife that appear on the back of Canadian paper currency with portraits of famous Canadians and landscapes. New face designs have been made available for replacement for the bank's \$100 bill, the \$50 bill, the \$20 bill, the \$10 bill, the \$5 bill and the \$1 bill. The \$100 bill will be discontinued to combat such counterfeiting money launderers.

Financial Outlook

Producers aren't letting high gas prices change their vehicle buying habits. The light-truck sector, which includes minivans and gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles, was the fastest

growing segment of the market in February, posting a year-on-year increase of 9.7 per cent.

Auto analyst Dennis DesRosiers says there has been "absolutely no reaction in the market" to increased pump prices, pointing out that even with the cost of gas climbing throughout 1999, the heavy end of the SUV market rose 40 per cent. Given that the average SUV costs more than \$40,000, spending an extra \$10 a week to fill up is a given many are willing to pay. According to DesRosiers, gas will only become a factor in vehicle purchases if the availability of fuel itself becomes an issue, as it did in the 1970s.





Ross Laver

Fairy tales and monsters

Once upon a time, there was a happy little kingdom full of happy little publishers who supplied books to happy little shopkeepers, who in turn sold them to happy little customers. Then one day, a large, scary monster bookstore spread its doors right in the middle of the kingdom, terrifying small children and driving smaller stores out of business.

Here was a monster. This fairy tale is starting to sound awfully familiar.

If you're been following the goings-on recently before the House of Commons standing committee on Canadian heritage, you could be forgiven for thinking it still is a fairy tale at all. One by one, publishing industry officials have revealed before the panel so far: indie booksellers and stores at Chapters Inc., the supposed terror of Canada's book world.

Independent booksellers have been complaining about Chapters since 1994, the year CEO Larry Stevenson created the company by merging Smithbooks and Gale. Over the past six years, Stevenson has improved Canada's book industry by opening a truly needed dose of U.S.-style merchandising. Alongside its 242 Cities and franchise outlets, the company operates 70 supermarkets complete with comfy armchairs, Starbucks coffee and 30 per cent discounts on best-sellers.

For his sins, Stevenson has earned the unflattering epithet of "discount" king. They call Stevenson a monopolist and wish he would go away—if only his stores weren't so damn popular with people who like convenience, great selection and lower prices. (Last anyone label me a Chapters acolyte, let me say right here this I'm equally partial to the four-year-old Indigo book chain, whose CEO, Heather Rousseau, is Stevenson's arch-enemy.)

The problem for the rest of the industry is that a large number of book buyers—anywhere from a fifth to a half, depending on how you define the market—really do prefer the superstores. So, having failed to win in the book registers, Chapters critics are taking the battle to the mountains. The target is the church distribution arm, Pegasus Wholesale Inc., which operates a store-of-the-day 300,000-square-metre warehouse in Mississauga, Ont., near Toronto. Thirteen times the size of a typical Chapters store, the facility stocks some 10 million books, all available for same-day shipping. The Canadian book trade has never seen anything like it.

The reason Chapters is investing \$50 million in Pegasus is

simple: it needs a fast, dependable source of books both for its stores and for its online division, whose customers expect the convenience of one-day-by-air get from U.S. giants such as Amazon.com. This means delivery in two or three days, not the three-to-five weeks that used to be typical in Canada for book orders. "On the Internet," says Pegasus CEO Dennis Zook, "the customer simply isn't prepared to wait that long."

Many publishers, not to mention the Canadian Booksellers Association, don't buy that explanation. They've noticed that Pegasus demands a 50-per-cent wholesale discount off a book's cover price, rather than the 46-per-cent discount normally given to retailers when they place large orders. The creation of Pegasus, they say, was nothing more than a ploy by Chapters to tighten its grip on the market. As one independent bookseller told the heritage committee: "We need to have the ability to buy from someone other than our main competitor."

Other witnesses said they were reluctant to attack Chapters openly for fear of reprisals. "Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?" Just about everybody in the Canadian book business, it seems. Nevertheless, most of their complaints fall apart on closer examination. It's standard practice for book wholesalers to receive 50 per cent discounts in return, they realize the extra costs of carrying a large inventory, filling and packaging orders and shipping books

to individual stores. And it's not true that small retailers are forced to buy from Pegasus. If they wish, they can continue to buy directly from publishers. Contrary to what some booksellers have suggested, Pegasus has no exclusive distribution rights and is no record in promising it will not seek them. Nor does it give preferential treatment on pricing to Chapters—if it did, you can be sure the federal Competition Bureau would have something to say. As it is, the bureau says it can find no evidence of anti-competitive behavior by Chapters and Pegasus.

It had not so full sympathy for independent booksellers, who face more competition now than at any previous point in their careers. But if they're worried about Chapters, imagine how they're going to feel if, as seems likely, Amazon.com opens its own warehouse here and starts pricing books in Canadian dollars. Believe it or not, Stevenson and Zook are just the opening chapters in that dramatic tale. Publishers and retail booksellers who want to avoid being written out of the story had better come up with another strategy—and fast.



Zook stocking up the book store



With the right INVESTMENTS, your golden years could actually happen at any time.



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ELLIOTT & PAGE
MUTUAL FUNDS

Free Music!

By Chris Wood

The crowd at Vancouver's venerable Commodore nightclub ran in the band on stage cracks out the opening chords of a rock anthem. Beyond its vocal melody, *Leader of Men* is a song about self-doubt—an irony that shakes more in the audience. The four members of the group Nickelback don't mind. More important is the track's showing on the charts in the United States, where a potential lawsuit looms for the B.C. band. But to do a discouraging new reality. Even as Nickelback's star is rising, so is a booming illicit trade in digital music files swapped over the Internet—featuring everyone from Celine Dion to the Backstreet Boys. For band guitarist Ryan Peake, growing lanes is a two-edged sword: "The more you get known, the more people reach for you on the Net. That's scary."

Scary as it is, however, this is the new face of the record business. Music, digitally recorded for decades, is tailor-made for cyberspace. Once scratched into a nonerasable vinyl computer file using various compression techniques, anything from analog to digital can slide effortlessly across the Internet to consumers' e-mail, hard-drives, or a growing choice of portable digital music players. Stars—among them Canadian Sade McLachlan and Alanis Morissette as well as Britain's David Bowie and Aerosmith's Tom Perry—are using the Web to communicate with fans in new ways.

Up-and-comers like Nickelback and Newfoundlander Dierks Bentley Doyle (whose second album was available free online for a limited time last month) see it to introduce themselves. The five giant corporations that control 80 per cent of the global music industry—worth \$20 billion annually—have taken notice. Edgar Bronfman Jr., who controls the world's biggest music company, Universal Music Group, sold a business and dinner earlier this month. "Music and the Internet are truly a much trade in heaven."

But the romance is shadowed by the same characteristics that make music such a Net nemesis. In digital form, it can be duplicated in a few seconds. Since 1998, the popularity of the MP3 compression format (invented after the standard-setting Motion Picture Experts Group)—and the wide availability of software to translate, or "rip," music from conventional compact discs into MP3 form—have fueled an explosive illegal trade in pirated tracks. Between June, 1998, and June, 1999, traffic in music files over the Internet increased 20-fold, booming, "the single largest traffic component on the Web," according to Dermot O'Carroll, a vice-president of Toronto-based Rogers Cable Inc. "It's even bypassed porn."

Much of the credit for that dubious distinction goes to a young American. Shawn Fanning was 18 and at Boston's Northeastern University when he wrote a program called Napster last



Clockwise from left: McRae; Morissette; Adkins; Nickelback stars are using the Web to reach their fans in new ways.



Record companies face a huge challenge from the Internet—especially from digital pirates

year. Available free from a Web site of the same name, it lets users troll the Internet for each other's collections of MP3s and download them. In one trial last week, Napster detected 6,890 collections around the Internet, with 894,852 music tracks available for download.

By far the largest concentration of such illicit archives is in North America—with many residing on large computers belonging to universities. Some are so massive they choke off other traffic. At the University of British Columbia, caches of MP3s are blamed for half a dozen disruptions in computer service this academic year, ranging from system crashes to e-mail that runs at a snail's pace. In addition to those who merely store tunes for their own use, some entrepreneurial youths equipped with CD "burners"—the devices that copy files onto blank CDs—also order for "custom CDs" of illegally downloaded music. The going price at one New Brunswick high school: \$5, about a quarter of what a commercial CD costs when tunes are thrown in.

Dozens of commercial Internet sites offer other ways—some perfectly legal, others dubiously so—to acquire music digitally. Streaming music, which plays directly over the Net through a computer's speakers, can include promotional releases from the likes of MacLachlan or Bowie (consumers are not supposed to be able to save those on their own machines, but software is available to do so). Other songs are available by download to keep. Tunes by lesser-knowns are often free; those by established acts can cost from about 35 cents to \$1.80 a track.

One Web music giant—San Diego-based MP3.com, whose shareholders include Canada's Mosioco—has incurred almost as much wrath from the recording industry as Napster. It lets consumers choose from thousands of music tracks (mostly by unknowns) and have the songs burned into a CD, which is shipped to its buyer within 48 hours. Shoppers can also order popular CDs by established artists. So far, no problem. But according to the record industry, two other MP3.com services violate copyright law. One lets people who buy CDs have them instantly, rather than wait for the disc to arrive. Another lets them "upload" music from CDs they already own to MP3.com, where they can access the tracks later from any Internet-connected PC. The Washington-based Recording Industry Association of America says the company illegally copied tens of thousands of popular CD files onto its own computers, to avoid having to do so individually each time a consumer purchased or uploaded them. MP3.com insists it has done nothing wrong.

How badly all of this will harm musicians or the hugely profitable recording giants is a matter of intense debate. "I don't think there's any question artists are getting hurt," asserts Vancouver's Bruce Allen, who manages Bryan Adams and Marianne McKee, among other acts. But, "Are we bleeding from the wrist and ankle?" says David Baskin, president of the Toronto-based Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency, which represents Canadian music copyright holders. "I don't think so." Still, the stakes are escalating. Legal online music sales are tumbling at \$1 billion (U.S.) a year as the



Music causes the most traffin the Net—'It's even bypassed porn'

United States, says Breitman, and will quadruple by 2004.

Those who are mostly in conventional CDs. But the guts of the music business have not waited for the download bloodbath to become critical to respond. The RIAA has used both MP3.com and Napster and launched a lobbying campaign to have universities and college book stores to Napster on their networks. According to a Web site put up by students opposed to it, the RIAA's campaign has been successful at more than 130 campuses, including Ottawa's Carleton and the universities of Guelph and Western Ontario. Meanwhile, the Toronto-based Canadian Recording Industry Association sends up to 40 letters a week to the Internet service providers hosting illegal MP3 music sites, threatening



Grege, in the future, music from the Web may be sold at different prices, depending on how many times it is played

legal action if the files are not removed from the Net. But the effect of such measures is questionable. The RIAA claims to have reduced the amount of illegal music on college sites by 10 per cent, hardly a mortal blow to the digital pirates.

At the same time, the music majors have been working with consumer electronics manufacturers and software companies since 1998 to develop technical measures to foil illegal duplication. The first milestone of the Secure Digital Music Initiative was released last July. It applies only to digital music downloaded directly to computers or new-generation per-

sonal digital players like the Sony Music Clip or RCA Lyra. In essence a set of standards, SDMI requires record companies and electronics firms to use computer formats and hardware that limit users to making no more than four copies at a time of any protected track. "You can make convenience copies for yourself," says Larry Krenzel, president of Universal Music's labels. "You just can't copy it will for friends."

A second phase of SDMI is supposed to make it harder to copy all new music tracks—including those on CDs—but work has just begun.

Still, all the major labels plan to begin delivering digital music directly to consumers during the course of this year. Some have already dipped their toes in the sea. GroMusic.com, a joint venture between Universal and Germany's BMG Entertainment, offers music from both companies' catalogues for download. Warner Music Group (whose anticipated merger with Britain's EMI Group PLC is expected to create the world's biggest music company when complete) and Sony Music Entertainment sell music online through their jointly owned CDNow.com. Sony and EMI, meanwhile, are involved in a plan to install locks in U.S. music stores, where consumers will be able to download tracks directly into personal music players.

While the majors plot their cyber-debuts, individual artists, software makers and a band full of record labels are pioneering radical new ways to get music to fans. Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster recently performed two sliding melodies that were recorded and posted on the Web site of music retailer HMV, where e-buys can download them for \$2.99. Embedded codes ensure that only a credit-card holder with a Canadian address can download the music, and that it can no longer be downloaded once the offer expires.

The arrangement typifies the new role the In-

ternet is playing in pioneering performers. "It's become direct marketing right to your audience," says MacMaster's manager Bryan Calvert. The Vancouver-based song *Leader of Men* has been downloaded tens of thousands of times, Calvert admits, without any return to the artist. But "That's 38,000 or 40,000 kids that have heard at least one track off the album."

Until now, the Internet has been less successful at selling entire albums. Even David Bowie failed to move more than a few thousand copies of his CD *Heathen*, when he initially made it available online from his own Web site (it was later released through conventional channels). One reason may be the long download time required for an entire CD over anything less than a high-speed connection.

But some visionaries believe the Internet's greatest future lies closer to MacMaster's demonstration than Bowie's. Jollister Allan Gregg, who, with partners, sold \$25 million last year into the creation of Canada's largest independent record company, Sony Corp., predicts that in future the same downloadable music track may be sold at several different prices—with a lower tag attaching the buyer to fewer plays than a higher one. Software embedded in the music tracks will control how many times or for how long they can be played before converting to digital dust. University's Breitman focuses digital music streaming freely to wireless Internet receivers in automobiles where "you'll be able to press 'buy' buttons while listening to a song you like." Next, the Internet is online subscription services, giving consumers access to vast libraries of music for varying monthly fees. "Top music might be like home cable, relatively cheap," ragsman University's Krenzel. "But if you want the hottest hit of the day, it's going to cost more."

There may be other benefits for audio-

Revening for CDs in Toronto: downloading may never be the secret society that once crisscrossed its small town

Finding e music

www.mp3.com: Top-rated CDs for sale, custom CDs and free downloads from lesser names; conventional, unsearchable CD archive

www.rjmusic.com: Claims to be original legitimate MP3 download site, learns heavily to young bands, hip-hop, rock and dance/electronic

www.GetMusic.com: CDs, downloadable song tracks and videos, backed by giants BMG and Universal

www.emusic.com: All-downloadable singles and albums in a variety of genres, some freebies

www.CDNow.com: Discount commercial CDs, custom CDs and downloadable tracks that it says can't be further copied

www.artistsdirect.com: Performer-owned site, claims to have music and info for more than 96,000 artists

www.famesshock.com: Online album search and showcase site; upload your garage band

www.crispot.com: All-downloadable free singles; subsidiary of MP3 portable-player maker Diamond Inc.

www.AtomicPop.com: Youth-oriented, underground and world-beat site

philes. Kinnell predicts that future online fidelity will surpass CD quality. The lower cost of offering and selling digital files compared with plastic discs, moreover, holds promise for those with minority tastes such as bluegrass music, and fans of older artists dropped by their record labels. Competition from downloads (it'll be less than one per cent of all music sold) may even force down the cost of conventional CDs.

As e-music thrives, will brick-and-mortar record stores perish? HMV Canada vice-president Andrew Pollock doesn't think so. "Retail," he insists, "will offer the experience of seeing the product and taking it home to hear it the very first time." And downloading, Pollock adds, will never become the so-called missing link that store owners go to in order to sell more everywhere. But other industry players aren't so sure. "I find it difficult, in March, 2000, to think there won't be some physical exchange of goods," muses Denise Cameron, the president of RPM Music, Canada. "I may have a different answer 10 years from now."

Much of the industry's optimism for legitimate online music sales depends on first defining—or at least containing—the legions of Napster-inspired pirates. "If that doesn't get fixed," says Grogg, "all bets are off." And the fix is far from a foregone conclusion. Devices that limit what their owners can do with music stored on them "may work, they may not," suggests Eric Schiller, a music researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab. "They may not be acceptable to consumers." Experts already say there will be compatibility problems among the SDML technologies used by different major labels; one player may not be able to handle them all. Then, too, the entire history of copying CDs, unsupported by SDML, remains as vulnerable as ever.

'Artists are getting hurt,' says Bryan Adams's manager

believe have too much control over artists. "The danger the Internet represents to the industry," says MIT's Scherer, "is it gives artists new leverage to move away from labels and distribute their music in other ways." Up to a point, anyway. Vancouver's Allen, for one, agrees that e-music gives him an extra card at contract time. "Established artists are going to say, 'You guys can have an occasional distribution,'" he predicts, "but we're going to hold tighter to our distribution." But cross-over artist Terry McEneaney, who manages Sarah McLachlan, adds, "I laugh at the suggestion that MP3 was supposed to be a bannister for young artists. You will have to promote, market and tour"—all activities that rely on record-company expertise and budgets—if anything, argues Kinnell, "artists will need more companies now than ever, because they need to differentiate themselves on the Internet."

In the end, the marketplace will be the judge. And many in the music industry express the fervent—if unwelcome—faith that most consumers will eventually agree to pay the proper price when they call down the tune. "Once downloadable music is legally available, easy to use and not very expensive," says CRIA president Ron Robertson, "I think it's going to be quite attractive to those who are now asking." Comparing the Napster phenomenon to the Sevens fad for dubbing to tape cassettes, HMV's Pollock notes: "When I was going to school, I taped others. When I left, I stopped."

To the musicians of Nickelback, many of whose young fans are of prime Napstering age, the outcome is anything but academic. "I don't think people realize," says band member Peake, "that if they don't support the CDs and the bands they like, musicians won't be able to produce another album. They'll go broke." It is a riff after performance, managers and labels echo. But it has yet to catch on with legions of online music fans.

Easy to download, harder to carry

It's not that easy to go portable with digital music. Downloading it to a computer is simple enough, and many people are content to play their sounds through a computer's speakers, or plug it through the stereo. Some people use a CD "burner" (\$260 and up) to copy music files to discs for a portable CD player. Even linking the computer up with a purpose-built portable digital player just takes a cable and software. But the biggest hurdle facing mass acceptance of digital players now, says Vin Baker, a San Jose, Calif.-based analyst with research firm the GartnerGroup, is the lack of an industry standard for compressing and decompressing digital tunes delivered over the Internet.

Right now, MP3 is the dominant format, but because it lacks security features—meaning the music can easily be played—major artists have, for the most part, shunned it. More than half a dozen formats are out there, says Baker, including Windows Media, ATRAC3 and Liquid Audio. Until that number is narrowed down to one, or at most two, secure alternatives to MP3, many consumers will balk at buying a portable for fear of wasting their money on the plethora of digital music players. "Ultimately," says Baker, "what you end up with is confusion in the marketplace."

Most of today's digital players hold between 30 minutes and three hours of music. The industry leader continues to be the Rio (from \$275) by Diamond Multimedia Systems Inc. of San Jose, Calif. But the Rio, which plays only MP3s on its built-in memory, has more competition today than it has ever had. Among them: Sony Corp.'s Memory Stick Walkman (\$595, available this summer), which plays MP3 and ATRAC3, and RCA's Lyra (\$329), which plays MP3 and Windows Media. "Riot's share is coming down, definitely," says Baker, "but it's still the lead dog in the pack."



The Rio, facing new competition



Call us crazy, but we think this cordless thing could work.



It's not hard to see that this device is going to change the way you use the computer and flexibility you have on a remote. And get it in a mouse. The Cordless MouseMan. Which even uses rubber buttons, so you don't have to push it in your computer. From up to six feet away, you can point, click and scroll with a mouse, this is specially designed to feel great in your hand. What's more, it has a unique TrackIt. We know that provides a one-of-a-kind view of the Internet. The Cordless MouseMan. Which you can use the mouse, even in a remote, your desktop with Logitech. www.logitech.com



It's what you touch.

How Fake Goods Sail Past Customs

By Danylo Hawaleshko

The cramped offices of CMI Music Inc. are located in a small, nondescript business plaza built across from railway tracks in an older neighbourhood of Brampton, Ont. From inside Unit A10, Bhaskaran Menon and his five employees distribute South-Asian music to the world. But unfortunately for Menon, pirated copies of his compact discs are flooding into Canada, cutting into sales and driving down prices. Adding to the frustration, says Menon—editing a view held by the RCMP—is how Canada Customs makes it alarmingly easy for bootleggers to break the law.

Menon started CMI Music in 1991 and holds a licensing agreement with Magnatune and (India) Ltd. Under the deal, he is authorized to sell copies of Magnatune's movie sound

tracks, classical music and pop songs anywhere inside India and the British Gulf. His discs are manufactured in suburban Montreal. Last year, Menon sold 80,000 CDs to retailers on five continents. If not for the piracy, and what he calls Canada Customs' indifference to it, Menon says he could triple sales in Canada. "My perception," he says, "is they couldn't care less."

As Menon mulls over his predicament, he takes little comfort in knowing he is far from alone. In fact, a Montreal investigation has confirmed that Canada Customs inspectors, under the direction of senior civil servants, routinely allow pirated merchandise of all manner to enter the country unharmed—thanks, they say, to inadequate laws against it. Music, software and movies are among the most popular items being bootlegged, but the pirated materials to just about anything worth counterfeiting, from Tommy Hilfiger clothing to Tag Heuer watches to Intel computer chips. Toys and video games are also lucrative, as are cellphone accessories, perfumes, prescription drugs, even golf clubs.

Counterfeit items from music CDs to golf clubs flood into Canada as the RCMP seethes

Moreover, the agency goes so far as to collect duties and taxes on imports as inspectors often know to be in violation of copyright and trademark laws. In effect, Ontario's coffers are being swilled by millions of dollars a year due to laws



applied to fakes. Roy Gellner, district branch president of the Customs Excise Union in Windsor, Ont., says inspectors across the country "are obvious about" of the Copyright Act on a regular basis. "If there's one thing that our members are universal on," Gellner told *Maclean's*, "it is that very frequently they are commercial and private shipments, which very clearly are bootleg copies of legitimate recordings." Furthermore, says Gellner, "If they've declared it and they've got their paperwork in order, we don't do anything other than collect the duties and taxes."

Senior officials at the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency insist they can do nothing more. They contend existing legislation does not give customs agents the authority to seize goods that contravene intellectual-property laws. According to Craig Turner, a director with the policy and inter-



vention such as Staff Sgt. Doug Ford of the RCMP's Toronto West detachment routinely disagree. Ford maintains Canada Customs simply lacks the political will to enforce laws already on the books. No court order need be obtained, he argues, because the Customs Act clearly states inspectors already have the power to detain merchandise if it contravenes any act of Parliament "that prohibits, controls or regulates the importation or exportation of goods." The Copyright Act and the Trademarks Act are two such laws, notes Ford. The Customs Act also plainly states it is illegal to possess counterfeit goods. Therefore, every time a suspect shipment lands under an inspector's nose, Ford warns Canada Customs to pick up the phone and call the RCMP. "Somebody in Ottawa is sitting on their hands," says Ford. "We think they have the legal authority to provide the information to us and they just haven't got off their asses and done it." At the Toronto office of the Canadian Recording Industry Association, Brian Robertson, the association's president, and Ken Thompson, the group's vice-president, are also feeling frustrated. While digital music may be the threat of the future, old-fashioned piracy is costing the Canadian recording industry \$30 million a year, says Thompson, and "over 80 per cent of that, we estimate, is imported." Both men have lobbied high-ranking customs officials on a regular basis. In most cases, says Robertson, the association only gets a call from customs when an inspector wants to check the declared value of a shipment of CDs—even when the discs are unrecognizable bootlegs.

The consequences are far-reaching. To begin with, free trade in illegal goods harms the Canadian economy. When counterfeit merchandise enters the market, only legitimate transactions rob Ottawa and the provinces of substantial GST and sales-tax revenue. Contraband also costs domestic jobs, as legitimate companies such as Bhaskaran Menon's fail to grow, or simply fail. Furthermore, says Rick Jenkins, one of two RCMP officers assigned to full-time policing of intellectual-property violations in the Greater Toronto Area, allowing forgeries onto the market can pose safety hazards to consumers. Goods can include clothing that hasn't been tested for flammability or toys not checked for toxicity.

So while right—customs or the RCMP? Jacques Léves, an expert in intellectual-property cases at the Montreal firm Léves, Robit, Richelieu, agrees that current legislation is vague. Parliament, he believes, should draft laws specifically targeted at counterfeit goods. "We need more clarity," he says. Christopher Pilon, a Toronto-based partner at Gowling, Straty & Henderson, one of Canada's largest law firms, also blames the law—and Canada Customs' selective interpretation of it. Pilon, who also practices intellectual-property law, notes the United States has long counterfeiting legislation that specifically targets the problem. "There's a Customs Act, a Trademarks Act, a Copyright Act that can be used for enforcement, but this does not specifically address the problem of counterfeiting," says Pilon. "Customs would be assisted by



Menon (left), displaying bootlegged CDs in Singapore (top); wearing genuine Tommy Hilfiger (right); that is almost identical to the real thing; customs officers often key duties on goods they know to be in violation of copyright laws, netting millions for Ottawa

legislation that was more pointed. But at the same time, there are sections that they could be using. That's why I say there's a lack of political will."

As it now stands, Canada Customs will detain fake goods only when served with a court order. But getting one has proven to be a cumbersome and largely unworkable process, says Phua. The chief drawback is copyright and trademark holders must know in advance when a shipment of bootleg merchandise is about to arrive before they can seek a court order, most often through the Federal Court. At crisis point, our bootleggers are not about to advance their delivery schedules. The lack of response, they say, is reflected in the number of seizures made in the past five years. In that time, Canada Customs has been served with just four court orders. In three of the four cases, customs agents found and detained the goods.

Such alert pickings have raised eyebrows south of the border. Tim Truitt, president of the International Anti-counterfeiting Coalition in Washington, contrasts the record at Canada Customs with the U.S. Customs Service's headline crackdowns. Truitt's coalition, made up of businesses whose annual sales total more than \$750 billion, notes that since 1995 the U.S. Customs Service has made 13,571 seizures involving trademark-piracy rights. Those goods were worth \$679 million. Customs inspectors in the United States, notes Truitt, are widely recognized as among the most aggressive anywhere. "If we're having a problem year after year and our numbers continue to go up," says Truitt, "it's a rather fearful thing to think



Jenkins (right) and Ford with fakes: shipments are easy to spot due to haphazard packaging or prices that are too low

that in April, 1997. An amendment to the Criminal Code gave customs inspectors the power to detain any goods they have reasonable grounds to believe are illegal—power that the critics believe they already had. Maureen Tracy, an official in the contraband and intelligence services directorate of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, says her office is in talks with the RCMP in Ottawa to define what those "reasonable grounds" might be. But in the three years since the amendment, not one shipment has been detained under the new statute. "It's very difficult," says Tracy. "For customs officers at the border, at the time that they're moving the shipment, to have the appropriate reasonable grounds to believe that there is an actual offence occurring."

Not really, says the RCMP's Jenkins. Many of these shipments are easy to identify because the goods are often haphazardly packaged or obviously underpriced. Reaching into a cardboard box sitting at his feet, Jenkins pulls out dozens of counterfeit Sony PlayStation CD-ROMs. Instead of the games being individually packaged, the disks are banded together and shoddily wrapped in what police call a bologna roll. Shipments like these, says Jenkins, should raise a red flag with Canada Customs. "Daily, we have hundreds of thousands of dollars of counterfeit product flooding this country," he says, "and these customs officers know it."

Most of what is counterfeited is made in China, Taiwan or Southeast Asia. As the source of fake goods continues—most of it coming through Toronto's Pearson International Airport, the port of Vancouver and the port of Montreal—the federal government can expect to come under increasing scrutiny as business leaders and Canada's trade partners ask why Ottawa isn't cracking down. "It is very disconcerting," says Truitt, "when you have a country that we consider to be sophisticated, developed, and certainly has the capability to do more, but chooses to do the absolute minimum."

Bruckman Menon would agree with that. "While customs wrangles with its critics, Menon is contemplating lowering the wholesale price of his CDs further still, perhaps to as little as \$4.50 apiece, half of what he was getting when he started his business in 1991. "So here, the bureaucratic response is absurd," "Somebody," says Menon, "has to turn around and say, 'This is nonsense. It has to stop.'"

according to our network map, the u.s. is now the eleventh province.



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Tech Explorer



From outside his home, an e-election

Voting via the Internet

In yet another testament to the reach of the Web, Arizona Democrats became the first Americans to vote over the Internet in a legally binding public election. Traditional balloting in the state's Democratic primary was held on March 11, but online voters could exercise their franchise with either a home or office computer between March 7 and March 10. The historic election resulted from collaboration between the Arizona Democratic Party and Election.com, a Garden City, N.Y.-based company specializing in election services. "In the not too distant future," said Bill Taylor, an Election.com vice-president, "it will be commonplace to do online voting."

To start the process, Election.com mailed all registered Arizona Democrats a personal identification card key. Those who wanted to vote electronically then logged on to either the Election.com site, or the party's Web page, and entered their PIN. Voters were also asked personal questions, such as their date of birth for added security, before selecting their preferred presidential candidate. More than 26,000 e-ballot votes cast in the first three days, double the traditional vote cast in 1996.

The process was not without compo-

any. A Virginia-based group called the Voting Integrity Project sued to block the election, claiming on grounds that it discriminated against minorities and the poor who typically have less access to computers, but a judge rebuffed the challenge. Many of those who did vote online praised the convenience. Dennis Jucara, a resident of San Cay, even opened his home to his neighbors so they could use his computer.

In Canada, the House of Commons passed a bill on Feb. 28 that will give the chief electoral officer the right to use online voting. An Elections Canada spokesman said such a test would likely first be conducted in a by-election. The bill is now before the Senate. As yet, there are no plans for Canada's first binding e-vote.

The chip war

In the world of personal computing, the one-gigabyte chip has long been seen as the holy grail. Last week, Advanced Micro Devices Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif., the world's No. 2 chip maker, finally held bragging rights to getting there first. It unveiled a computer chip capable of processing one billion bits of information per second. The rivalry over the Athlon, however, was short-lived. The next day, AMD's rival, market leader Intel Corp. of Santa Clara, Calif., rolled out its own one-gig chip, a Pentium III processor, which it said would be cheaper than AMD's. Emphasis on the word "cheap." Intel's new processor may not be as fast as AMD's, but it's a lot cheaper—since they are not tested to high-powered graphics processors.

Cool Sites

Online snaps

Using digital photographs stored on your hard drive, mySlideShow.com lets you create five Web-based slide shows in less than five minutes. Each show can contain from three to 24 images, plus captions and an audio track—the site offers six musical styles. When you're finished, you can e-mail a link to your friends so they can see your handiwork.

Daphne Havelock

Question: Can you name a country where a woman is a second-class citizen, has no right to vote, and little chance to work outside the home except as a domestic servant? A country where a woman loses her property rights upon marriage, and where hundreds of mothers die in childbirth every year?



Answer: Canada... In the year 1900. What a difference a century makes! Economists tell us it is no coincidence that Canada has prospered as women have become equal partners in society.

But the journey is not over. For a woman in the slums of Bombay, or a village in rural Kenya, the odds against getting a high school education, surviving childbirth, or opening a bank account are remarkably similar to those faced by women in Montreal or Toronto a century ago.

There are real signs of hope, however — success stories that contain echoes of Canada's own history. They demonstrate that when women are finally allowed to grasp economic opportunities so long denied them, it strengthens the family, the community... and entire nations.

... a Global Journey

Want to help the world take a step in the right direction? Join us at the

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This breakthrough in this supplement have also been made possible by the support



Partnership Walk
A journey with Canadian spirit

of the Canadian International Development Agency. The Partnership Walk is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation Canada.

BECOMING EQUAL PARTNERS



"Before, I worked hard, but never made any money. Now I work harder but I am able to earn an income and save regularly for my children's future."

Ali Razaee Photo: James Taylor Pakistan

Organization, Income and Education = the Keys to Empowerment

For women in Canada, change began when girls were allowed to go to school, when women were allowed to earn a living, and when women

joined clubs and associations to discuss their problems and protect their interests. The same combination of organization, income and education creates a powerful force for change around the world.

"The level of economic production is likely to be higher in a society where women are able to engage in a diverse range of activities compared with that in a society where their life is confined to domestic work."

Amartya Sen, 2004 Nobel Prize Winner in Economics

Key #1: Organization

A few years ago, the scene below would have been most unlikely: few women in the mountain villages of northern Pakistan left their homes except for weddings or funerals. There was no question of earning an income, or learning to read. Change began here when a democratic women's organization was formed in the village. For the first time, women could meet regularly outside the home, pool their energies and resources, and discuss health conditions, environmental problems and family violence.



Key #2: Income

The women of Khyber decided that earning more money was their No. 1 priority. They know that good health is dependent on having more to eat, and money is needed to pay for medicines and school books. (The link between health, educational attainment and income is well established in Canada as well.) With initial training and assistance from the Aga Khan Rural Support Program, the women of northern Pakistan are finding outside buyers for their vegetables, eggs and poultry at good prices. By poofing and re-savestring their new savings, they can now truck to take their potatoes to distant markets for even better prices.



Key #3: Education

Schools for girls have also sprung up in the northern areas, built by their parents with assistance from Aga Khan Education Services. The long-term impact will be profound: better educated women have fewer – and healthier children – who are themselves likely to have higher incomes.

A CANADIAN LEGACY

Perched by the *Debate and Deal* ("a model development project") The Economist and the World Bank, the partnership between Canada and the Aga Khan Development Network has enabled more than a million people in northern Pakistan and inspired anti-poverty efforts around the world. The Universities of Guelph, Toronto and McMaster have trained women and men from northern Pakistan in public health care administration, education management and rural planning.

PROVIDING SUPPORT

BECOMING EQUAL PARTNERS

Making a Connection: Jana and Ameena

Guelph's Jana Kelly took this photograph of her friend Ameena Begum in her modest shop, stocked with sugar, cooking oil and a few other staples. "Running a store is not a traditional thing for a woman in Bangladesh to do, and Ameena was proud that she had really made a success of it," recalls Jana. "She's better off than those around her — her house is well decorated, her children better dressed and fed."



Ameena's life has been transformed by a small loan she received from BRAC, a grass-roots, non-governmental organization. She also received training in bulk buying, bookkeeping and marketing. On the day of Jana's last visit Ameena



closed the shop to take a legal class on property and inheritance rights. "The women must know their rights or they won't have real control over their money," says Jana.

What ever happened to Bangladesh?

When the new country of Bangladesh was wracked by civil war, famine and floods in the early 1990s, Canadians opened their hearts and wallets. Canadian aid has been used by BRAC and other organizations to support microcredit — a system of self-reliance now adopted around the world. Peer pressure is used as a kind of collateral — women form small groups and agree to be responsible for one another's loans. Now Canada's help has come full circle. The Bangladesh model has spread to 300 countries, including Canada, where microcredit programs have been started by Caledon, the Royal Bank and others.

Vital Statistics

Women in Bangladesh taking out loans: 7 million

Total Amount of loans: \$500 million; average size: \$500

Repayment Rate (with interest): 97%

Number of women who join BRAC every year: 120,000

Unlocking Africa's Human Resources

African nations face a cruel dilemma. Education is vital if their citizens are to prosper in a global economy based on "knowledge industries." Yet there's little money to make schools better.

Until recently, the majority of girls received no formal education at all. The good news is that as many as 90% of all children in some countries now attend primary school. But

teachers are poorly trained, class sizes have ballooned (to as many as 100 per classroom), and there's little left over for books and materials, or to pay teachers.

Creative solutions are necessary.

Africa Fact: More than 61% of expenditures on education in Africa comes from parents. Only 35% comes from the government.

Key #1 | Start Early

The early years of life are critical to cognitive development. The Partnership Walk supports pre-school centres in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda that train women from local villages as teachers. Costs are kept low by using imaginative toys made from recycled milk cartons, brightly painted bottle tops, seashells, coconuts and soap boxes.

Key #2 | Give Parents Control and Responsibility

In order to participate, each village agrees in writing to provide classroom space, to co-manage the pre-school, and help identify suitable teachers. They also must raise \$2,000 to match funds provided by the project. After two years the centre is evaluated, and if it makes



the grade a \$2,000 bonus is placed in a carefully managed endowment fund to help with future expenses. Since parents are investors in the pre-school, they demand results. Studies show that girls and boys who attend the centres do better in primary school.

Key #3 | Terrific Teachers

In African societies, teachers are viewed with great respect, despite the fact they must toil in poor conditions at astonishingly low levels of pay. The Partnership Walk helps teachers and principals realize their potential with resource centres and on-the-job training that introduces child-centred instruction (instead of simple memorization), and better planning and financial management. The cost is as low as a few hundred dollars per teacher - but the impact is felt by every child in the school.

A Good Report Card

GOOD IDEAS TRAVEL FAR. In Uganda, evaluators found that a school improvement project supported by the Partnership Walk had "radically transformed the environment of classrooms and instilled an ethos of improvement by mobilizing most teachers' expectations of themselves and the children." More than 80% of parents thought their children were more "investigative," and more sociable. Now all 85 primary schools in the capital city of Kampala have adopted the model, which is also being used in Kenya and Tanzania.



Of course as a **woman**, I am interested in women's education. And I think if the **Aga Khan Foundation** is helping women in other parts of the world, that's **great** and should be **supported**.

Singer Sarah McLachlan at the Partnership Walk in Vancouver

Who's Walking ... and Why?

Astronaut Roberta Bondar, former prime minister Kim Campbell, and University of Alberta Chancellor (and now the province's Lieutenant Governor) Lois Hole personally the breakthroughs Canada's women have made in science, politics and education. They are also among the 500,000 Canadians who have taken part as walkers and sponsors since the Partnership Walk began in 1985.

Kim Campbell

Roberta Bondar



Surveys show that the vast majority of Canadians are proud to help those in need in other countries, and that we should not be used for Canada's own economic benefit. Nevertheless, there are some other good reasons to walk.



Lois Hole

Low-cost Breakthroughs. All sorts of practical and inexpensive ideas perfected in developing countries find their way to Canada. They include microcredit, canals, waste recycling systems, the use of hospitals in preventative care, and medicines from tropical plants. Thousands of Canadians have applied the knowledge they gained in development projects to make life better in Canada.



Knowledge. Canadian universities and researchers increasingly depend on links with Asia, Africa and Latin America to stay on the cutting edge of global research. That improves our higher education system, keeps the best students in Canada, and attracts students from abroad.

Jobs. Canadian livelihoods depend on exports to growing developing countries. Canada's good reputation helps Canadian companies negotiate valuable contracts.

Each year the world spends billions on stop-gap solutions to the latest crisis. Solving global poverty is the only long-term way to protect Canada from the costs of environmental catastrophes, regional wars and the floods of refugees that result. And a crucial key to solving global poverty is unleashing the potential of the world's women.



Age Khan Foundation Canada
is a **good investment** for
Canadian taxpayers ... all
overseas program expenditures
flow **entirely** to the project.

Canadian government-sponsored
evaluation of AKFC projects

In voting in last spring's 1999, the following caring businesses showed that they believe that good markets still entail global responsibilities. Thank you!



Age Khan Foundation Canada is a registered charitable organization (9000011999) that seeks to help alleviate poverty and economic inequality by providing educational and social services to disadvantaged communities in Canada and around the world. The foundation is a good investment for Canadian taxpayers ... all overseas program expenditures flow entirely to the project.

People *Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
with Shanda Davis*

The best show ever?

Don McKellar twitches again

Don McKellar has a secret: he doesn't watch TV anymore. That's a funny confession from the man who created the CBC sitcom *Tuvalu City*—considered by some to be the best heritage to television on television. McKellar, who wrote and stars in the series at Carib, an anthropomorphic TV station, says his own set sits unused in a back room in his apartment. "The best way to purge yourself of TV," says McKellar, "is to make a show about your addiction."

Since the series began in 1998, McKellar, 35, has been busy generating film accolades. He co-wrote the Golden Globe-and-Oscar-nominated movie *The Red Violin*, and wrote, directed and starred in the Cannes film festival prize winner *Last Night*.

Now he returns to *Tuvalu City*, which will air on the CBC this season. In the second season, among other things, Carib goes through a second round of television down called *Pan Fat*, can take over the world. Jennifer Jason Leigh speaks her *Savage Wild Female* role and Canadian band *Slane* appears as disillusioned Nema. "The *Slane* thing was a direct fax response," says McKellar. "I kept getting e-mails saying put *Slane* in our episode and I knew the band, so it worked out. Thank God they weren't asking for the *Backstreet Boys*."

The show, set in Toronto's arty Kensington Market neighbourhood, is directed by Bruce McDonald and co-



McKellar 'purging an addiction' by making a show about TV

stars her Canadian actor Molly Padua. Colleen Keith *Renee* and Mark McKinney. The series has been picked up by five other countries and is already a success in Australia, on a recent promotional tour. McKellar discovered the show was being produced as the best TV series ever. "After we told them they couldn't say that, they changed to the best TV series ever... we suck!" And unlike McKellar these days, the Australians know what else is on air.

Lara's theme: 'my passion'

If the name of Lara Fabian doesn't ring a bell, give it time. The Belgian-born diva, who calls Montreal home, is set to become Quebec's Next Big Thing musically, mixing over where temporarily recent Céline Dion left off. After four French-language albums and more than 5.6 million copies sold in Europe and Quebec, the 30-year-old chanteuse has set sights on the English music world. Fabian considers companion acts to Dion as inevitable—and welcome. "If

that's the kind of artist I can be compared to, that's very flattering." Fabian's fifth, self-titled album has sold more than 50,000 copies in Canada since its November release, and *Giving up on You*, the current single, is climbing radio charts avidly. She hopes for the same when the album is released, as planned, in the United States, Australia,



Fabian doesn't mind the comparisons to Dion

Asia and Britain in May. Fluent in Italian, French and Spanish, Fabian started speaking English at 18, and has little taste of an accent. She brings more than technical skills to her work. "I am the most passionate woman on this earth," Fabian says. "Passion is my religion." Now, it's time for metaphors to become careers.

Taming the stroke

A new drug therapy offers full recovery to many patients

By Brian Bergman

One Saturday morning last November, Peggy Code collapsed outside a suburban Calgary mall. Helped to a nearby bench, the 64-year-old nurse realized she was disabling and that the entire left side of her body was itchy. "Oh, no, I'm having a stroke," said Code, who knew the symptoms well from her work. An ambulance arrived five minutes later and rushed her to Foothills hospital, where Code worked three days a week. She was immediately sent for a CAT scan, which confirmed that she was an ideal candidate for an anti-clotting drug known as t-PA (tissue plasminogen activator). Within the hour that it takes to administer t-PA intravenously, Code could lift her left leg and arm, by the next morning, she felt no residual effects from the stroke. Although firing fit, Code, who was due to retire next September, has decided not to return to work. Still, her recovery "was a miracle," says Code, her voice breaking with emotion. "I feel like I'm just so lucky."

As someone who has watched patients spend months, even years, struggling to overcome the physical disabilities inflicted by a stroke, Code takes her good fortune to heart. She benefited from the fact that Calgary is at the centre of an 18-month national trial using t-PA to treat victims of ischemic stroke. That effort follows a 30-month tracking of 68 stroke patients—the largest single sampling to date in Canada—treated at Foothills between April, 1996, and December, 1998. The results of the Calgary study, published last month in the



Buchan reviewing a patient's progress: a radically new way of dealing with strokes

Rochester, N.Y.-based journal *Neurology*, provide new hope for stroke victims and their families.

Of the patients who adhered to the treatment guidelines for t-PA, 67 per cent recovered to the point that they could function independently—compared with the norm of only 26 per cent when no drug treatment is offered. Observes Alastair Buchan, a leading stroke expert and director of Foothills hospital's acute-stroke program, "If we encounter a patient with a disabling stroke, we assume that someone who can walk out of the hospital without assistance, then that's a cure."

Under review is not just a new drug, but a radically new way of dealing with stroke victims. Traditionally, Buchan says, stroke has been the "Hemiplegic" syndrome ("all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again"). The brain damage that an average stroke inflicts is so severe that doctors believed little could be done in the way of treatment. But with the advent of t-PA—and the promise of other chemical and surgical interventions on the horizon—all that is changing.

First approved by the U.S. government in 1987 for cardiac disease, t-PA has only recently become available for stroke. The drug literally cuts away the protein that causes blood clots to clump together into a stroke-provoking clot.

To be effective, though, t-PA must be administered within three hours of the stroke's onset—and that's where the real challenges to the medical community come into play.

In Calgary, health officials have taken the lead by streamlining emergency measures to respond to stroke with the same urgency as serious trauma. The effort was aided by the consolidation, starting in 1995, of the city's three hospitals and a host of other facilities and services into the Calgary Regional Health Authority. In 1996, the new authority decided that all neurological services be central at Foothills and that all suspected stroke victims be delivered to that hospital.

A key priority was to ensure that the city's paramedics recognize the first signs of stroke—including sudden weakness down one side, confusion and difficulty of speech—and move the right patients to the right place as quickly as possible. Once patients arrive at Foothills, a triage nurse checks their blood pressure and glucose levels to make sure they are stable, then directs them to a CAT scanner in the emergency room that has been reserved for this purpose. The resulting brain image tells the attending neurologist what kind of stroke the patient is suffering. In about 20 per cent of cases, it will be a hemorrhagic stroke, involving bleeding inside the brain, in which

case t-PA cannot be used because it could aggravate the problem. Of the remaining 80 per cent of cases—the ischemic strokes—other patients will be ruled out because their stroke is too severe for the drug to do much good or because it is mild enough that they might recover on their own.

If a stroke victim is a candidate for t-PA, and if the family consents, the patient is whisked to a 15-bed stroke unit, where everything is ready to begin the infusion of the drug. While the outside window for treatment is three hours, Buchan says that, if all goes as it should, patients receive t-PA no later than 90 minutes after the onset of a stroke. "None of this is rocket science," observes Buchan. "It's all about organizing and treating stroke as an emergency."

Starting in February, 1999, Buchan and his associates were also put in charge of gathering information on patients who are being treated with t-PA in other centres across the country. The results of the 18-month trial will determine if Canada agrees to provisional licensing of t-PA for stroke victims as a

firm approval. One aspect that bears close monitoring is that, in some cases, t-PA can induce hemorrhaging, increasing the severity of a stroke and even leading to death. "The risk," says Buchan, "makes us very, very careful."

In the Canadian cases to date, he says, the drug has been shown to increase the risk of hemorrhaging in about four per cent of patients. Results from two separate studies on t-PA usage in the United States, published in this month's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, peg the increased risk to anywhere from 3.3 per cent to 11 per cent of patients. In many U.S. cases, the higher incidence of hemorrhaging appears to be linked to t-PA being administered outside the prescribed three-hour limit or by physicians without the best experience with stroke and new stroke interventions.

Under the right circumstances, though, t-PA has the potential to be a major new force in combating stroke. Every year, at least 50,000 Canadians suffer a stroke, with a third of them fatal. That makes stroke the nation's third-leading killer, after cancer and

heart disease. But stroke is also the number 1 cause of disabilities, with 300,000 or more survivors struggling daily with afflictions ranging from loss of vision or speech to crippling paralysis. On average, a stroke survivor will spend 30 days in hospital and three or four months in rehabilitation. Beyond the individual suffering, strokes cost considerable money on health-care resources. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada—which pays Buchan's salary as the country's only professor of stroke research—estimates that it costs a total of \$3 billion a year to deal with the aftermath of stroke.

For people like Peggy Code, the benefits are tangible. Instead of spending that post-Christmas languishing in a hospital or in a rehabilitation therapy, Code cooked dinner at home for 15 guests, then headed off for a two-week holiday in California with her husband, Bill. "It's been absolutely amazing," says Code. "Life is good." As new medical advances are showing, sometimes Humpty Dumpty can be put back together again. ■

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Tanya (left) Williams, a paid two-hour lunch volunteer, sorts through food for Meals on Wheels.

On company time

Good intentions—and pragmatism—spur employers to support their staffs' charitable efforts

By Susan McCalland

It's 5 p.m., and instead of heading home, Jan Wilson-Henderson, an analyst with Shell Canada Ltd. in Calgary, is going to spend the next three hours volunteering with a group called Post Support Services for Abused Women. The 35-year-old Wilson-Henderson works with survivors of domestic abuse, informing them of services available after they leave a shelter. And although she is married and works full time, she expects to volunteer about 100 hours with the charity this year and feels good about her commitment. "I work in a corporate world, and I needed to take things for granted," she explains. "Now I don't. I appreciate that I am able to work and that I have skills that can be used to help other people."

The bulk of Wilson-Henderson's volunteer hours come out of her own time—on nights and weekends. But her company is helping, too. Like a growing

number of Canadian firms, Shell encourages employees to give their time to charitable endeavours, even if some of these hours fall into the regular work day. And just last month, Shell donated \$1,000 to Post Support Services on behalf of Wilson-Henderson's efforts. Why? Beyond their own good intentions, companies are being pragmatic. Nearly one-third of Canada's more than 7.5 million volunteers are also employed, and studies show that most of those people prefer to work for companies that support their social values as well as their financial goals. Employers find that supporting their staff members' charitable efforts helps them keep valuable employees. "It's great for morale," says Catherine Kreff, Shell's community affairs representative. "What acts as a company that supports the communities whose employees live and do business in."

Companies have a bottom-line rationale, as well. Studies have shown that

employees are more likely to buy products from businesses they know to be socially responsible. That they have a long way to go. Of all the donations collected by Canadian charities in 1998, only one per cent came from corporations, compared with the 66 per cent that governments laid in, the next per cent that came from individual donors and the 36 per cent that charities raised from their sale of merchandise and other means, then by piggybacking on their employees' efforts, companies are finding additional ways to help.

"There is a realization that social responsibility is much broader than writing a cheque," says Martha Forbes, executive director of Volunteers Calgary. Chances are, once you are more than welcome. Imagine, a program sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy in Toronto, which encourages firms to support employee volunteering as well as consent to giving one per cent of pre-tax profits to charities, says donations requests from nonprofit organizations to companies have increased by more than 20 per cent since the mid-1990s. "There is just this huge excitement for businesses to be doing more in the community," says Inaugural director Chris Finney. But Canada's charitable organizations also need the extra hand. Since the late 1980s, when government funding began to dwindle, thousands of charities and nonprofit groups had to rely on staff as well as volunteers to survive. So when they began to look at the private sector to make up the shortfall, they were in need of volunteers as much as cash.

While the majority of corporate support goes into individual volunteers such as Wilson-Henderson, a growing number of companies are working with staff on major fund-raising projects. Paddy Bowen, executive director of Ottawa's Volunteer Canada, cites the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's contributions to the *Run for the Cure* as an annual run-for-tha cancer in 1992 as a way to support breast cancer research. The

event is open to the public and last year had more than 70,000 participants, but the bank helps fund it and encourages employees to suffer organization. This boosts the cause, and the bank's image. "It is a new way of doing good," says Bowen, "and of being seen as a good company in your community."

The employees benefit, too. For example, when Diana Williams of Aurora, Ont., was looking for a new job last summer, she was happy to find an organization that was active in the community: the Independent Order of Foresters in north Simcoe. About every six weeks, the 41-year-old project co-ordinator and a colleague, Tony Targio, take a two-hour paid lunch to deliver food to elderly clients in an east Toronto neighborhood for Meals on Wheels. "I feel assured that I am doing my part to help someone in the community," says Williams. Adds Targio, "It makes me appreciate what I have."

Paul Thompson, a 40-year-old plant manager for Ruko Tool & Mold (1987) in Windsor, Ont., says the personal rewards that come from being a volunteer are worth the sacrifices. Every Wednesday morning at 10.30 on the day of his three-hour shift, he has to leave at 9 a.m. for a downtown school where a boy lives in a broken home. As part of a mentoring program his company initiated with Big Brothers and Sisters of Canada, Thompson works with the child, who is 9 or "sometimes we play basketball, cards or just talk." By the time he works to the school and back, Thompson has spent at least an hour and a half away from the office and he uses his lunch hour and says he has to catch up his work.

Yet, Thompson says that when he first met the boy, he was "wild and unmanageable, and would get into fights." Now, everyone including the school principal, notices a positive change in the boy's behaviour. "It's the most wonderful feeling knowing that it was me who made a difference in this child's life," says Thompson. And it is why, the company made a difference, too. ■

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Ann Dowsett Johnston

Adjust your headsets

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the first class of Downward Expectations. We'll start this morning with a question: *how many of you parents are expecting your children to attend university?* Hmm. By the number of hands raised, it looks like the majority. Now, how many have accepted that your children will have to forgo the experience? Do I count only 25? Anyone willing to change your mind? No? Very well? Then, let's move straight to the main event for this morning's main event, a game of musical chairs. Then, you will find 600,000 seats, one for every student who will get into university in the fall of 2003. Seeing as we have 650,000 sets of parents here, we need to reduce our numbers

before we move onward. So let's get started if you believe that your son or daughter will have an average grade of less than 75 per cent, please move to the exit at the rear. Our purpose, as you know, is to help you manage your reduced expectations.

Sounds like science fiction? It shouldn't.

For a growing number of baby-boom parents, the party has begun to drop, when it comes to university access, the next generation faces some critical obstacles. Frank Reithold is one of those parents, and he's hopping mad. Since last December, he has been trying to buy his son, Daniel Cunningham, Ontario minister of training, colleges and universities, on her plans to accommodate the needs of echo-boom students—specifically, the double-class that will graduate from high school in the spring of 2003, when Ontario students Grade 13. Last month, he visited Cunningham, or her representative, to attend a public information night at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary in Kingston, Ont. More than 350 parents and students turned out for the March 1 event, some arriving more than 100 miles. Not Cunningham. She sent her agent, via assistant Hazel Tomalia, who asked parents to accept the minister's "best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event." Reithold is furious. "What did she think this was? Some kind of assembly line?" He was worried about the lifelong consequences for our kids.

Furious, and for good reason: unless Canadian universities receive a major infusion of operating dollars, there isn't a hope in Hades that they can keep pace with the costs now demanded. And while the pressure in Ontario will be fiercest three years from now, it's just a hop, a decade-long de facto budget. Last year, it was estimated that Canada would witness a 25-per-cent increase in demand for undergraduate education by

2009. Now, that prediction looks too conservative over the past two years, Ontario has seen the largest jump in university applications in more than a decade. In British Columbia, where the 18- to 24-year-old population is skyrocketing, out of 100,000 for university entrance are already among the highest in the country.

So why not follow the simple advice of the Serenif? If you build it, they will come. It's not quite as simple: between 1993 and 1998, governments across Canada shipped more than \$3 billion out of higher education. That's crumpled cuisine, antique labs, outdated libraries. Operating funds ground to a halt. Meanwhile, the Ontario government launched its Superbuild program, its most ambitious expansion since the 1960s. \$1.4 billion in capital construction, aimed at boosting the physical capacity of postsecondary institutions by 2003. This initiative may offer access—but access to what? Without a significant increase in basic operating grants, do universities can raise to bump up modern facilities? Overload maintenance? Compromise the learning environment? All of the above.

Take Queen's University in Kingston. Last fall, Queen's raised its enrollment by six per cent, with a minimal increase in operating funds. This year, applications are up a further 10 per cent. Yet, the university received a whopping \$50.8 million in

Superbuild grants for three major building projects, and it has called an emergency proposal that would allow an increase of 3,000 students over the next decade. But principal Bill Leggan warns those more spaces can only be created if the province comes up with financing. Says Leggan: "We would be part of the solution, but we're not prepared to wait down quality."

This week, Ontario universities will send out their first offers of admission to students across the country. They have yet to be informed of the province's allocation of operating funds or guidelines on tuition fees for the upcoming academic year. As a result, the incoming University of Waterloo will send out their offers for every seat and student they hope to secure. But popularity can be a curse: last fall, Waterloo's target was 4,000, when that date settled, 4,600 students had accepted Waterloo's offer. This year, the university is determined to take no more than 4,120. All I can say is good luck.

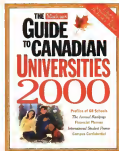


Queen's housing students?



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Enriching a fictional universe

In her new collection of short stories, Carol Shields proves adept at finding wonder in the unremarkable

Dressing Up for the Carnival
By Carol Shields
Random House, 237 pages, \$32.95

A certain kind of artist has always known that the ordinary can be a source of inexhaustible wonder. Vermeer found in the made and homemade of Delft the stuff of great art. In his 1922 novel, *Ulysses*, James Joyce made an epic from the thoughts of a Dublin ad salesman. Victorian-bred writer Carol Shields is a self-proclaimed member of the same tribe. In one story in her otherwise new collection, *Dressing Up for the Carnival*, the narrator insists of a not-very-bright secretary that "her shining maid-servant, cucumber-baby body housed an epic, a drama, a sequence, a macro-fiction, a fictional universe." In novels such as *The Stone Diaries* (1993) and *Larry Perry* (1997), Shields has established her own fictional universe on such honey foundations as recipes, hedge-planning and the streets of Winnipeg. In *Dressing Up*, the occasionally exerts herself into more topics such as autism and post-structuralist thought. But even here, it is the ordinary, the unremarkable, that reflects life's hidden richness.

There is considerable variety to the 22 pieces in *Dressing Up*, in weight, approach and quality. The title sketch opens the book with a rapid portrait of 11 individuals, each welcoming spring in his or her own secret, claud way. A young woman dresses up in a favorite outfit, a young man buys a mango and falls in love with its left and rindless, a middle-aged man puts on his wife's lace-trimmed nightgown

in the privacy of their bedroom. Collectively, these good spirits lift the world of the story like a helium balloon—but as with a few other tales in the collection, "Dressing Up for the Carnival" feels a little too close to sentimentality. Much better is a similar group tale, "Soup du Jour," which also evokes the small private happinesses of several individuals. Here a note of satire gives the piece an ambiguous edge while still allowing for a touching conclusion based, mystically, on the word "celery."

Shields also specializes in a kind of breezy essay-story—call it *Boswell-like*—that wittily investigates such topics as leprosy, avianism and the cooking habits of an imaginary kingdom. These pieces are usually theme-driven. "Dying for Love" offers three examples of women being left by the men they love. But while inevitably well-observed, such stories tend to smooth their characters into rather faceless, illustrative types. Shields also includes a few fable-like tales in which some ordinary aspect of human life is radically changed. In the wonderful "Windows," two artists are forced by an exorbitant government tax to cover up all the windows in their house. But they paint a life-like picture of a window and so draw themselves—and the reader—into an ecstatic appreciation of the ordinary miracle of light.

In fact, "ecstatic appreciation" runs through much of *Dressing Up for the Carnival*. Most of the tales keep steadily away from any prolonged expo-



Shields' tales suffused with ecstatic appreciation

sure to tragedy or unhappiness—burial's usual territory—and try to celebrate what is hopeful and forward-looking. The tale of this approach is obvious, but in the collection's final story, "Eros," Shields entirely escapes them. A house-cancer survivor, Anna, finds herself forced into a sexually intimate moment with a stranger at a dinner party. The incident shocks her into vivid memories of her comic childhood, and she comes back to the present with a surprising—and moving—acceptance of what has happened to her. Here, as in the memorable "Mirrors," with its quiet celebration of married love, Shields has embraced enough of life's tragedy and transience to fully see the redemptive insight at the end of her story. We are creatures of the moment, these tales say, yet our vicarious, though only momentary, can be golden.

John Burt Foster

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Growing up with Elvis and sasquatch

A first novel bristles with energy—and a spunky heroine

When award-winning Vancouver novelist Ellen Robinson sits down to write, usually at 10 p.m., there is a twin-motocrossed she sleeps perfectly. First, she lays out some offerings in front of the computer: Coffee, Crap, Bacon and Toilet Paper. Then, she programs the libretto, making sure she has enough cans of coffee-infused PepsiMax on hand. Finally, she calls on her muse, Marvin, whom she describes as "a crazy, unreliable and somewhat uptight" spirit, reminding the Warner Bros. cartoon character Marvin the Mutt. Marvin is the one who pushes her to persevere and sometimes, and when he is in a particularly bad mood there is hell to pay. Robinson herself, the author of a first novel, recently released novel, *Minsky Book* (Knopf Canada, \$32.95), after Marvin was being particularly obnoxious. "That book was too embarrassing to allow to exist," she says. The next version, she continues, "was too raucous, too gaudy. The only ones who liked it were my German publishers."

After four seasons—and with Marvin's blessing—*Minsky Book* appeared in bookstores in January. Robinson, 32, who grew up in the Haida nation community on British Columbia's north-west coast, has crafted a haunting coming-of-age story about a young Haida woman, Laurence H.B., who reflects on her childhood after she loses her younger brother, Jimmy, in a boating accident. The book is as tender, dark, suffused with alcohol addiction, incest, drug use and death, but the



Robinson, easily here and there for her muse

major elements are laced with wonderful memories of her mother and the spunky resolve of Laurence—earned after Elvis Presley's daughter—as come to terms with her past and her family.

Robinson grew up quiet and close—the has never been comfortable with adjectives and adverbs, she says. But the characters in the book emerge brilliantly through dialogue. There is Uncle Miki, the native-rites adviser who is fixated on Elvis; Ma-ma-ma, the grandmother who teaches Laurence about Haida ways; cousin Tib, who becomes a journey to her own drunken mother; Laurence's father, meanwhile, as the pursuit of middle-class romance with their Royal Declassation choir and golf clubs. They are pragmatic fails to

the emotionally damaged characters who live in and out of their daughters' life.

The book also explores the world of spirits—they are as real as Laurence's friends and relatives—and the realm of *Sasquatch*, as squashes the wild men of the woods. There is also an intimidating, leprechaun-like creature who runs Laurence's race before tragedy strikes. "Best way to keep ghosts away is fast," her Uncle George once a fearful Laurence.

Robinson's talent as a storyteller were recognized immediately on the 1996 publication of her first book, *Topline*, a collection of short stories written while she was working on her master's degree in creative writing at the University of British Columbia.

The book won Robinson British Columbia's Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize for best regional fiction and was included on *The New York Times* list of most notable books that year. *The Times* and the *Seattle Times* chose it as one of the best books of the year. "Canadian writers are so weird and vibrant in response to the continent," a strong sense of the molecule is woven through all of Robinson's writing, born of her enthusiasm for Edgar Allan Poe and Stephen King. She began writing her first short story, for instance, as an homage to a Hecatonian novel, but she became quickly abandoned romance and "became fascinated with power tests and self-analysis," Robinson says. The story "Drops in Winter"—about a girl whose mother is a serial killer—is in *Topline*.

Robinson has just started a four-month gig as writer-in-residence at the Whitehorse Public Library in the Yukon. Now, it's off to Toronto to try writing a play for Native Earth Performing Arts and there are a couple of ideas for a novel. "The question is which one to pick," Robinson says. Undoubtedly, Marvin will be there to help her decide.

Jennifer Hansen in Vancouver

Oddly enough, we'd like to celebrate a group of individuals who spent hours and hours with a good book.



Congratulations and best of luck to each of this year's nominees for the Rogers' Writers' Trust Fiction Prize: Caroline Adderson for *A History of Forgetting*, Elyse Gasco for *Can You Wave Bye Bye, Baby?*, Judy MacDonald for *Jane Yolen*, *No Great Mischief* and Peter Oliva for *The City of Yes*.

The Rocket-fuelled riot

Recalling Montreal's 1955 hockey explosion

Fire and Ice
The Rocket Richard Riot
Global, March 15, 10 p.m.

On March 13, 1955, Maurice (Rocket) Richard, star right-winger for the Montreal Canadiens, humiliated Boston Bruins defenceman Hal Laycoe with his stick and then dugged a knee into Laycoe's groin. Three days later, NHL president Clarence Campbell suspended Richard for the remainder of the season and the playoffs. The following day, March 17, passions for hockey and French-English tensions combined to trigger one of the

worst riots in Montreal's history. A thousand infuriated citizens took to the streets, destroying property and setting fires. "We never expected such mayhem," recalls a former Montreal police officer. "It was terrifying."

Director Brian McKenna's one-hour documentary *Fire and Ice: The Rocket Richard Riot* explains the events leading up to the riot and the cultural factors behind it. The incident was a clash between French- and English-speaking Canadians, and an eruption of anger over the absolute power of the NHL's team owners. McKenna, who directed the controversial series *The Violent Man* and *The Home*, uses a compelling mixture of archival footage and re-enactments of key events, such as the actual fight. The



Richard during another famous riot

film-maker also includes interviews with such firsthand witnesses as referee Red Stacey—who was in the Montreal Forum, the riot's starting point, when a broken stick—and Ken Reardon, the Canadian vice-president at the time of the suspension. Richard, now 78, was not interviewed for the documentary.

To many Quebecers, the Rocket was an avenging angel who symbolically fought on us against Anglo domination. When opposing players called him "Frog," he retaliated viciously. "Hockey, in Quebec, was bigger than the Church," says Stacey, "and Rocket Richard was bigger than the Pope." Richard's rebelliousness drew the ire of the NHL president. "The Rocket actually struck in Campbell's case," says journalist Red Fisher. "He was one of the few players who could stand up to him."

In English Canada, Campbell was a hero. He was a decorated Second World War officer who regarded Richard as a drinker who had stayed home and played hockey when he should have gone to war (Richard volunteered twice but was rejected due to hockey injuries). The March 13 fight gave Campbell the opportunity to teach Richard a lesson. The president wrote to New York City and met with the NHL owners. The resulting suspension cut Richard the scoring role (which he was poised to win) and destroyed the Canadiens' chances of winning the Stanley Cup.

Ironically, Campbell's ban became an education for English Canada. The riot represented some of the first violent runnings of Quebec nationalism. With its mixture of in-depth reporting and engaging personalities, *Fire and Ice* is a winning allophe from the past.

Andrew Clark



Roberts: the story of an office woman who stays a corporate titan

Films

Firebrand Barbie

Julia Roberts scores in the role of an environmental crusader

By Brian D. Johnson

Erin Brockovich

Directed by Steven Soderbergh

We've seen a lot of tough mothers in the movies lately. Susan Sarandon played a white-trash mom who drags her teenage daughter off to California and picks up Mr. Wong in *Anger*, and New Jersey McTier did more or less the same thing, but with feelings, in *Twisted*. And as a school nurse, she charged with sexual abuse in *A Map of the World*. Squawnee Warrior takes her knobby behind bare while her husband minds the loola. But none of these women cuts as wide a swath as the whorled played by Julia Roberts in *Erin Brockovich*. Based on a true story, this is the tale of a small-town, working-class mother, twice divorced with three young children, who launches an environmental lawsuit that brings a \$3-billion (U.S.) company to its knees.

The movie offers an odd marriage of

talent. For American director Steven Soderbergh—known for such deftly understated films as *Sex, Lies and Videotape*, *Out of Sight* and *The Untouchables*. Out of Sight and *The Untouchables*—it makes a departure into a much broader style of entertainment. And the docudrama Roberts seems an unlikely choice to play a husband. But Soderbergh's hands, she delivers the strongest performance of her career.

At first glance, the role looks like a considerable stretch from the Hollywood personas of *Pretty Woman* and *Notting Hill*. But *Erin Brockovich* is more than just an investigative thriller like a *Gravestone* story about an office woman who also a corporate titan and gets into the business—its investigative tale. And by all accounts, there is nothing ordinary about the story's real-life heroine. Brockovich—who appears in the movie as a waitress—is a former beauty queen who liked to dress provocatively on the job and use her sex appeal as a muscle tool. Think Norma Rae in action.

Roberts struts through the movie in a parade of trash couture. And as she works her way through dozens of emotionally scolding groups, her cantankerous demeanor becomes an ongoing sight gag. She deserves a new Oscar

category: best supported actress.

The movie is set in the town of 75,000 in California's Mojave Desert. As the story begins, Erin is unemployed and desperate. After suffering a car accident and falling to her knees, she persuades her lawyer, Ed Murray (Albert Finney), to give her a job at his law firm. There, Erin stumbles upon evidence of a cover-up involving contaminated water that has caused devastating illnesses in the community. Going door-to-door, Erin signs up more than 600 plaintiffs. In 1993, they eventually settle with PG&E, a private utility, for \$333 million, the largest settlement ever paid in a class-action lawsuit in U.S. history.

Monstrous though it may be, the victory seems anti-climatic. Individually, some of the plaintiffs still carried loss for contracting terminal cancer than Roberts made for showing the movie (that total is \$20 million). But *Erin Brockovich* plays as comely as much to drama. Unlike *Silence of the Lambs*, there is nothing terribly sinister going on, no death threats or scary suspense. The gaps between film and her curly hair—puzzled with abiding innocence by Finney—could have been scripted for Mary Richards and Lost Girls.

The other strain in the heroine's life is George (Aaron Eckhart), her bitter boyfriend who lives near death and becomes an unlikely heartthrob, a male version of the angel-faced, Teri Hatcher played by Eckhart (*The Company of Men*, *Love From the Heart*). He is a wonderful character, a Hartley-Devotion dad who holds the first wife Erin in out swooping into files and clanking down stairs.

The script by Susannah Grant (*Ever After*, *Academy Award*) seems on the edge of Hollywood formula. But it is owed by Soderbergh's spare direction. Although he takes a linear approach, without the playful flashbacks of his earlier films, his elegant touch is still present. As for Julia Roberts, she is still Pretty Woman, a working girl smiling her way from rags to riches. But this time, the fairy tale rings true. **B**

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Theatre

Currents of the heart

A Jane Urquhart novel swirls into life onstage

The Whirlpool

Original novel by Jane Urquhart
Adapted and directed by Brian Quill

At the *whirlpool* about a mile downstream from the famous falls, the Niagara River ties itself in a knot. It is a spectacular sight, the water tumbling turquoise-green as it surges between the walls of the gorge. *The Whirlpool*, Jane Urquhart's prize-winning 1996 novel, is set here, with the river as a metaphor for the currents of desire animating her characters. But how to fit the mighty Niagara into a drama? That was the problem faced by Brian Quill, director of a stage version of *The Whirlpool* now playing at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre (to April 21). Quill didn't have a million-dollar budget at his disposal, so sticking to some of water was never an option. Instead, he has been forced to be uniquely innovative—and the result is one of the most original dramas in years.

In a nutshell, Quill's solution is to fuse drama and dance in a new way. Of course, the two art forms have often been combined: the Vancouver Arts Club musical-inspired version of Gogol's tale *The Overcoat* is currently winning audiences in Toronto. As with most such shows, *The Whirlpool* actors never say a word. Quill, on the other hand, keeps his cast talking while—with the aid of help of modern-dance choreographer Jella Sauts and composer Justin Haythe—he has them whirl, contort, squirm, fall and dance their way through a *maelstrom* of relationships.

Set in 1883, *The Whirlpool* revolves around Finda McDougal (Tacey Ferenc), a bored young woman whose husband, David (Martin Julien), is more interested in the War of 1812 than in her. There's also a poet, Patrick (Jordan Petrie), who is so terrified of the natural



Julien (left), Ferenc: the cast swirls through a maelstrom of relationships

attraction between him and Finda that he tries to swim the whirlpool instead. *The Whirlpool* may not offer the straightforward dramatic momentum audiences expect. But the show throws up many scenes of an almost Zen-like simplicity and force. Guided by Sauts's choreography, the actors move with the uncanny waywardness and grace of objects—ricks, bottles, bodies—being manipulated by powerful and complex currents. Their continuous fracture and emphasize their speeches in strange ways, giving the effect of a new language struggling to be born—one more deeply embedded in the natural world. *The Whirlpool* may be flawed, but it is, excitingly, in fresh dramatic.

John Brennan



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Biting the hand that used to feed them

The British media and legal system were kept busy last week with the fallout from two tell-all newspaper articles written by well-placed former employees. One was an excerpt from Trevor Roper-Jones's book, *The Redgords' Story*, which was printed in *The Daily Telegraph*. Roper-Jones, who was employed by Mohamed Al Fayed to protect his son, Dodi Al Fayed, and Dodi's girlfriend, Diana, Princess of Wales, recalls the days leading up to the 1997 Paris car crash that killed the couple. In the excerpt, Roper-Jones says Mohamed Al Fayed's conscience that Diana and Dodi were shopping for an engagement ring just before their deaths was a "myth." That didn't go over very well with Al Fayed, who owns the luxury Hamoodi store in London. He began legal action to stop the newspaper from publishing further extracts, saying he was "disappointed that Trevor has chosen to tell his story in this way."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Charlie, were also disappointed, to put it mildly, that a former employee planned to publish personal details about their family life. The couple went to court to stop *The Mail on Sunday* from printing a story written by their children's former nanny, Rosalind



The Blair family: Roper-Jones' (right) claims Mark Hamoodi and his wife

Mark, about her years spent at 10 Downing Street. A judge granted an injunction barring the publication of the article. But Christie, herself a lawyer, also filed a suit to block publication of Mark's memoirs. That produced an agreement: The prime minister's wife dropped her action when Mark promised her book will not reveal private details of life in the Blair household.

Best-Sellers

Fiction	Offices
1. <i>THE DECEIVER</i> John Grisham (2)	3
2. <i>CRACKING UP FOR THE CANNALS</i> Tom Swick (2)	3
3. <i>BRIDGE OF SPOONS: THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	3
4. <i>NO GOOD WOMEN</i> Anne Michaels (1)	4
5. <i>A BIRD IN THE HAND</i> Peter Dinklage (1)	4
6. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
7. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
8. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
9. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
10. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
11. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
12. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
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17. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
18. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
19. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4
20. <i>THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE</i> Robert Harris (2)	4

Return of the singleton

British writer Helen Fielding's 1997 novel *Bridge Jones's Diary* became a best-seller—and spawned new words that became part of the vernacular for the thirtysomething crowd. The diary holds the thoughts and dreams of a single, single-minded, over-drinking, London "singleton" looking for Prince Charming. Fielding's follow-up novel, *Bridge Jones: The Edge of Reason* (Penguin), picks up one month later. Bridge is still obsessed with her weight, even though she snagged her dream man, Mark Deacy. But she isn't entirely out of the singleton woods yet, so Bridge turns to advice from her friends in an effort to find the truth about relationships.



Search in the Canadian Rockies (left), climbing live action

Television

Adventure adventures can now embark on a dream journey to the roof of the world, thanks to the first live televised expedition to the summit of Mount Everest. Starting on March 20 and continuing until May 14, live coverage of the AGF Everest 2000 climb will air twice a day on CBC Newsweek and once a day on the main CBC network (they can also be accessed on the CBC Newsweek Web site, www.newsweek.ca). "I'm looking forward to taking Canadians along with me on this incredible trip," says

Byron Smith, 39, leader of the expedition. Smith and his fellow climbers, Tim Ruppel of Nelson, B.C., and Cameron, Alta.-based Brad Wobleski, will be doubling as cameramen to give Canadians a front-row view of the ascent.

Using a 18-lb video telephone and a satellite phone, they will send sound and pictures in real time from the top of the world to the CBC broadcast center in Toronto.

The team hopes to reach the summit of the world's tallest mountain at the end of May—and at a reasonable hour for Canadians to catch it live on TV.

Mission to nowhere

A recreation of the top 10 reasons to send Mission to Mars, the new space movie filmed in and around Vancouver by Brian De Palma and a crew armed with 120,000 gallons of red paint.

10. The epic production placement for NASA makes you wonder if the Apollo moon landing wasn't filmed on a soundstage after all.

9. While NASA scientists went to great lengths to ensure that all the space technology was authentic, the screenwriting is still light years away from simulating real human dialogue.



Scene from the movie with Steve (left) the Martian crew and crew

8. The number of clichés required to send a manned spacecraft to Mars is astronomical.

7. Space travel is supposed to be fast, but *Mission to Mars*, which lasts a good two hours, is dead slow.

6. 2002's *A Space Odyssey* was done and done, but *Mission to Mars* is done and stupid—there's no black moonlight, but there is a big, white moon, a kind of cheese-park pavilion where an actual Martian who cries real tears explains the meaning of life.

5. The Martians look like an ancient hybrid of E.T. and Tachyon.

4. Tim Robbins looks like he can't wait to get back home and see Susan Sarandon and the kids.

3. Gary Sinise looks like he can't wait to go home and do more live theatre.

2. Who needs a sentimental Brian De Palma movie? Maybe he does—everyone has to pay the rent.

1. The *Saturday Night Live* sketch of guys staring into space saying, "What the heck is that?" was way better.

Brian D. Johnson

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Allan Fotheringham

Meet a Whatzit Grit-slayer

The biographers and historians tell us repeatedly that, in politics, it is the little things that count. They are right, of course. Not big issues, just nagging, dumb little things.

Harold Martin has landed on a prime minister of Britain after John Profumo had to Parliament about his affair with a woman (he was called Christine Keeler). Richard Nixon derailed the Watergate book as "a third rate burglary."

Germany's Helmut Kohl has raised a fine career by refusing to come home on the inevitable death funds. John Diefenbaker came to power because a careless and arrogant Liberal government wanted to give pipeline bills passed quickly. We all know the dumb little thing that has derailed Bill Clinton's place in history.

Jean Chrétien's incoherence of going for a third term may be coming, attacked by the little things that are piling up and Paul Martin can only watch and hope. Clouds of uncertainty gather slowly even as the Liberal gather for their annual party convention.

A joking dismissal about "pop-pert" says: "A gleeful, mocking put-down of Opposition MP's over the Jane Stewart fiasco. An arrogant refusal to accept a judge's criticism to appear before the APHC inquiry. What appears to be a personal, vengeful interference in Conrad Black's passage. A costly \$500,000 make-work project to build a fountain in a river in the PM's own riding and all these birds had come in at over \$500,000.

It's adding up, bit by bit, each one another little chip in that reputation so gradually built over 37 years in politics. The third term doesn't seem like such a clean-cut affair after all.

The best news the patently weary Martin has had in some time is the appearance as the national savior of Stuckwell Day. Alberta's treasurer is the solution to the province's pressing problems that the disgraced Reform Whatzit Party has been pondering.

The gladdening Pearson faithfully disavowing the nation in search of his own Holy Grail, is still not making any roads in Fort St. John. It is no consolation to the west other provinces to point out that life is not fair and that the one hated province now has one-third of the seats in Parliament. The Whatzit Party will never cross the floor from



an Opposition benches until it can find a leader who can elect more than 100 seats from Toronto and all its media power. He would seem to be the one.

Manning can't do it and newcomer Day at least has a chance. He has a nice wit as the politician, a quality that is as foreign to the Pearson as a Chinese. He speaks quite acceptable French (not the Diefenbaker type) due to a childhood spent in Montreal. All he has to do is suggest that fund-raising events that make in his seat, he being an innocent poster at one stage in rural Africa.

He has started his eyes to Ottawa because he has seen, clearly, that Ralph Klein is not going to step aside soon and allow his younger top minister the premier's chair.

But his greatest advantage, coming in to challenge Manning for the leadership, is his age: "just" 49. He suddenly makes all the other players look tired and a little boring. Manning seems to have been around for decades, because he just grinds away and never changes his act. Conservatism is a great virtue, but it also puts you to sleep.

There is a massive Clark still trying to hang in there, who has been around so long his greatest asset is now the training young blond who appears beside him on the stage and happens to be his daughter.

And the key to Martin's dream is that handsome young Stuckwell will make us (and the Liberal party) realize that Chrétien's act is beginning to wear on us. To counter his first face from the Whatzit, the Grits would be smart to arrange the deck chairs at the top and give Martin the chance he so dearly wants.

Stuckwell (and, the churchy problem) Day was the Whatzit leadership choice in the eyes-bee Pearson as document. A product of Red Deer, where the cows outnumber the oil wells, he shares rural Ontario, dismisses the suspicious Toronto media and won 15 to 30 of the province's 105 seats. Enough to wipe out the Liberal's previous 13-seat majority.

It's all so simple. And it is all now in the hands of someone who, this department always wants faithful readers, is Alan Clark.



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